The Commonweal

A Weekly Review of Literature, The Arts and Public Affairs

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THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE

AT THE final session of their eighteenth national convention the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic adopted a resolution which, in ringing terms, condemned the course of the administration in permitting this country "to be made again the catspaw of British selfish interests." The administration was again condemned for entering upon a virtual alliance with a country "that persistently refuses to pay its just debts to the United States." The administration was condemned for the third time for entering into partnership with a nation "historically notorious for bad faith and broken contracts."

If we are to judge by the recent record of the nine-power conference in Brussels, the fear that the United States would be made a catspaw of British interests appears to be slightly exaggerated. Norman Davis vetoed the suggestion that he be chosen president of the conference. In his opening speech, he politely denied that this country had any plan for arbitrating the Far Eastern dispute and contented himself with the observation that the United States merely desired to cooperate with the other eighteen powers represented at the conference. Once again Mr. Davis declined. This time his refusal took the form of refusing to draft a cautious communication to Japan.

As one session followed another without tangible results, someone proposed that Mr. Davis and delegates from Belgium and Great Britain assume the heavy responsibility for addressing Japan. Germany had previously declined to be represented at the conference, so the proposal was made to include a German representative on the committee. France then insisted at once that if Germany was represented, a French delegate should be permitted to contribute whatever advice he deemed pertinent to the occasion. Italy then demanded to be represented on the committee by a delegate who would consider himself perfectly

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free to submit whatever suggestion he deemed advisable. Finally, Russia declared that, in view of the action taken by the other powers, her delegate should be promptly accorded the privilege of offering wise counsel. The momentous letter was drafted and dispatched. At this writing, however, no reply has been received from Japan and all the delegates are at a loss as to what to do.

While the diplomats, almost completely under the domination of Mr. Hem and Mr. Haw, were fussing, haggling and glowering at each other, Japan, Germany and Italy entered into a new pact that is of immense importance to the peace of the world. The new treaty binds the signatories to fight Communism in all its manifestations, to exchange information with other signatories bearing on the activities of the Communist International, and to take severe measures against all persons who either at home or abroad work directly or indirectly for the Communist International or favor its activities. It is rumored that this exceedingly vague pact is but a prelude to vaster political misunderstandings and objectives. Any forcible measures directed against Japan in the present crisis, according to this theory, might encourage Italy and Germany to bring on a major crisis in Europe. Should Britain and France attempt to curb German and Italian aspirations and ambitions, Japan might cause further trouble in Asia.

The reaction in Moscow to this cunning maneuver was instantaneous. Enraged Soviet leaders vociferously called upon all the workers of the world to unite. Thus it would seem that another important step had been taken in the direction of dividing the nations of the world into hostile camps with the democracies, as the New York *Times* expressed it, "forced to attempt to maintain an equilibrium from an exposed position in the center of the road, midway between the extremists of the Left and the extremists of the Right."

As we view the muddled European scene, much will depend upon the decisions that Britain takes in the next few months. Mr. Chamberlain recently let it be known that overtures had been made to General Franco for reciprocal agents in England and Nationalist Spain for the purpose of protecting British nationals and commercial interests in the latter country. Although Mr. Chamberlain strongly denied the inference in the House of Commons, this significant action may be a preliminary step toward the de facto recognition of the Nationalist government.

When the issue in Spain has been definitely settled, the question of German colonies will be agitated. We believe that, in this instance, Germany is bluffing. The Reich's attitude toward Czechoslovakia, however, is an entirely different matter. Should Germany attempt to destroy democracy in that country, will Britain and France intervene? So far as we can judge, Czechoslovakia must have outside aid in order to survive.

Finally, there is the large question of Britain's attitude toward Russia and the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis. Perhaps Britain will not take a strong stand in international affairs until her vast armament program is completed. Sir Thomas Inskip, Minister for Coordination of Defense, recently told a political gathering that since he took office nineteen months ago, orders had been placed for 288,000,000 pounds worth of armaments. Fifty-eight special establishments, or extension by the government of privately owned works, he asserted, had been erected. Twenty were for Admiralty purposes, seventeen for the Army and fifteen for the Royal Air Force. When Britain feels herself sufficiently strong, we may then expect a rapid clarification of many perplexing international questions that center around the Triple Alliance.

Week by Week

The Trend of Events

THE ASSERTION has recently been made that the poor farm worker and his employers are now compelled to pay, for the things they have to buy, prices that are arbitrarily imposed by city folks who work hand in glove with labor monopolists and New Deal politicians. This serious charge should be read in conjunction with the press statement that retail milk prices advanced $.01 a quart and the price of heavy cream jumped $.02 a half pint in the metropolitan area, marking the third price increase in five months. The present action is based upon a new schedule of increased payments to farmers who will receive the highest prices paid by milk distributors since 1931. If the basis of a sound prosperity is a sound agriculture, it would appear that city folks are doing their bit to increase the farmer's purchasing power. The business slump is still causing considerable anxiety throughout the country. The problem is of great interest to every citizen, for if the recession continues, a sharp increase in unemployment will soon be registered—and this will necessitate relief expenditures and will stimulate demands for benefit payments under our social security system. In the end, the public debt will be increased at a time when serious effort is being made to balance the budget. This and similar grave problems will engage the attention of the President and congressional leaders during the special session. We express the hope that a friendly spirit of cooperation between the two branches of government will result in further progress along the road to recovery.

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IN THE mass of comment regarding the postponed visit to these shores of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, one note has been stressed very little; yet it seems to us to contain the point of the whole unfortunate episode, as that episode applies to us. Whether the Duke of Windsor is pro-Nazi is a question apposite to the writing of a life of the Duke of Windsor; whether he has been dogged in abdication by a kind of anomalous royal atmosphere, making it impossible for him to be private and inconspicuous, or whether his manifestations of personal preference are injudicious, might well be considered by social and psychological students in connection with their particular pursuits; similarly, whether the stretch-out system evolved by M. Charles Bedaux, the Duke's close friend, who tried to arrange his tour of this country, has had a deleterious effect on labor, is a proper theme for the economist and sociologist. But none of these questions has any bearing on the Duke's simple right to visit this country, under our own formal professions of toleration. The fact that an emotional storm was roused by the prospect of that visit, of such proportions as to cause the British government to bring unofficial pressure to cancel it, reflects no credit whatever upon those who rode the whirlwind and directed the storm. They will be more fortunate than they deserve if the impression they have made of lack of urbanity, lack of judgment and lack of toleration of what they do not understand and approve—a two-edged weapon, this last—does not work against them later in the minds of many of their fellow citizens.

The Visit That Failed

A MODERN emendation of a venerable text might be, that of the making of comment on books there is no end. However, we offer one brief comment more—not in the vein of analytic review, dealt with elsewhere in the issue, nor in the even more important vein of moral contrast, as exemplified in Miss Thompson's penetrating study of what our children find in the way of ideals in the world with which we surround them as against the ideals in the books we give them. Our comment is more restricted and special; but we think it merits attention just the same. There is a certain trend in children's books which Catholic authors are beginning to follow, and which they do well to follow, but which it is to be hoped they will not follow into oversimplicity and oversweetness. No one who remembers his own childhood, of course, would wish to check the product of sound and artistic reading gaged to children's minds. But those minds are deeper and tougher than the Man from Mars might think if he judged from some of the monosyllabic masterpieces currently offered them for food. The writing of "children's books" is now not so much an art as a trade; a spate of them come from the presses each season cunningly pictured and bound to disguise their essential meagerness; bring in their appointed revenue; and die to be remembered no more. There are a good many writers, of course, who can really write, and who really respect the child's mind, and hence produce authentic books, books to be chewed on and returned to again and again. Such writers are rather especially the product of our times, and for them especial thanks are due. We seriously question whether the other sort elicit from the juvenile any other reactions than weariness with reading, and contemptuous if concealed amusement at the ways of adults.

Children's Minds

SINCE the war the principles and policies of the Republican party have not seemed to us unclear. That is, of course, speaking most relatively, because American political parties have never been ideological parties and the Republicans have always had queer local people, especially in the West. Herbert Hoover's campaign for reelection was considered disastrous, but it would seem most unjust to say that he obscured issues. One could feel one knew where he stood. The somewhat changed tone of the Landon campaign did not make the voters feel that there had been essential change in the party. The present contest within the Republican party looks to us like a fight between those who want the Republican line to remain clear and those who would prefer it to become obscured. Perhaps the Republicans would get more votes if their principles should become increasingly vague, but citizens, we think, would also grow increasingly confused, and we feel confused enough already. We hope this new program committee of 100 will not compromise all the possibilities for gaining votes into something new and unintelligible, but will restate the old Republican tendencies to Liberalism in a form we can recognize from political and economic experience.

Republican Clarity

IN AN address in Carnegie Hall, most timely in view of the twentieth anniversary of the Bolshevist seizure of power in Russia, Alexander Troyanovsky, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, was presented with a "Golden Book of American Friendship with the Soviet Union" which is reputed to contain 100,000 signatures. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Troyanovsky announced to an admiring and enthusiastic audience that "no one can find the slightest pretext to accuse the Soviet Union of aggressive aspirations." That a modern diplomat should indulge in propaganda upon occasion should sur-

Anniversary

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prise no one. We are profoundly amazed, however, that the constant repetition of this stupid falsehood over a period of years, despite all the evidence to the contrary, should be still believed by apparently well-informed persons. The modern propaganda technique simply ignores realities and seeks to achieve its subversive ends by the dull and deadly reiteration of certain stock phrases. One could marshal an imposing array of facts to disprove the pacific character of the Soviet Union. But we are quite certain that Mr. Troyanovsky and the American Friends of the Soviet Union would not condescend either to listen or to reply but would immediately launch into the opening chorus of the Communist theme song. We cannot predict the early demise of this burlesque. It will continue, from all present indications, so long as one yokel can be found to applaud the tedious and antiquated performance.

"P. R." in New York

AFTER pulling the levers of voting machines to express most of their choices in the November 2 election, New York City citizens were sent into other booths with ballots to mark for Council choices, and warned to write numbers opposite names, and not simply crosses. More interesting than the new City Council's function is its manner of election—proportional representation, the biggest experiment in proportional representation yet tried in the country. "P. R." is supposed to reflect more accurately the wishes of voters and to give substantial minorities a chance for representation they do not get by the traditional American balloting way. Counting the votes is a big job, numbers being used instead of checks, and ballots in excess of those needed to elect citizens' first-choice candidates being transferred to the account of the voters' second choices. Everybody knew that the count would take a long time and the Board of Election had regularly expressed its dislike of the system even before election day. It turned out worse than anticipated. The 1,680 ballot canvassers were getting $10 a day and so they delayed, "soldiered" and "sabotaged." The canvassers were selected on a bipartizan basis, and so charges, apparently well-founded, of doctoring, bribing and general fixing in bipartizan deals were made by the American Labor party, the unfortunate third party in the middle. Democratic reforms cannot be soundly and easily instituted by substituting a new way to vote unless thorough education accompanies it, and unless the old party machinery, intent on keeping to the old way, is put in a position where it cannot block reform. Bipartizan counting of a non-partizan election would be a hard problem anywhere. We hope the case clears up, and that the example will in the end be a good one, with citizens represented by the persons they want to represent them. "P. R." can be a valuable tool in city government and it would be a shame to have it broken before a decent try-out.

Medical Insurgents

LAST week 430 prominent doctors issued a declaration of four principles and seven proposals in contradiction to the policies of the American Medical Association on responsibility for health. "The health of the people is a direct concern of the government. . . . In the provision of adequate medical care for the population four agencies are concerned: voluntary agencies, local, state and federal governments." Although the A. M. A. in June adopted certain resolutions which were considered unusually "liberal," it rejected any such assertion of the general social responsibility involved in the work of medicine. The organic unity of society makes it inevitable that the decadence of laissez-faire in one sphere will be paralleled in other spheres and that the stress and strain we feel in economics cannot be excluded from such an important field as medicine. Medical problems and economic problems are not one, as radical advocates of totalitarianism often seem to contend, but that they are interlocked is a fact that cannot be denied. The medical men who signed this manifesto and who work in many of the greatest hospitals and schools of the country are furnishing an impetus to development which seems necessary. Although insisting on society's responsibility to the poor, they do not enlarge that principle to untenable "statist" extremes. "The problem of economic need and the problem of providing adequate medical care are not identical and may require different approaches to their solutions." Unadulterated conservatism in the medical profession would be as bad for the profession and the people as it would in any other calling. It would be lucky if the learned profession of medicine should instruct more humble workers in the methods of preserving the good and wiping out the evil in the realm for which they are responsible, without dangerous splits, recrimination and destruction.

We Are Embarrassed

ALBERT LEVITT recently requested President Roosevelt to instruct Attorney General Cummings to start legal proceedings in quo warranto to remove Mr. Black from the Supreme Court on the ground that Mr. Black "was personally ineligible to receive the appointment which he purports to have." It has become apparent that any judgment Mr. Black may render from the Supreme Court bench will be an unending source of embarrassment to the Court itself, to President Roosevelt, and to the nation at large.

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PARENTS AND PAGANISM

By BLANCHE JENNINGS THOMPSON

"THERE are none so blind as those who will not see." The concerned observer of present-day parents is constrained to believe that they must deliberately close their eyes and ears to the poisonous influences at work upon their children, taking refuge in the complacent stupidity of "It won't hurt my child," or else they see perfectly well, but refuse to act because by open recognition, they may perforce be obliged to impose some inhibitions upon themselves.

Attention is focused this month upon the hundreds of beautiful and worthy books for children —books upon which authors and illustrators have lavished loving care. Many parents are conscientiously buying them, acquiring elaborate booklists, and listening to librarians and educators as we set forth the virtues of the classics or the beauties of the newer books. But even while we talk, we are saying to ourselves, uneasily, "What's the use?" Other influences, more insistent and more superficially stimulating, are at work upon these non-reading, mechanical-minded, speed-and-noise-mad products of a machine age, tearing down ruthlessly all that we have carefully and painstakingly built. Are the parents mad that they do not see it?

Let us be direct about this, and face some unpleasant truths. We are living in the midst of a pagan culture; we are surrounded by a cult of naturalism—and *your* children are not escaping. Modesty and reticence are gone; virtue is old-fashioned; moral controls are ceasing to function.

If parents were willing to face the issue and act individually as well as cooperatively, something could be done. Something must be done, and that promptly, by every parent and educator who believes in God and remembers the sixth commandment. Examine just for a moment, some of the reasons for the rising curve of immorality.

Advertising in certain fields is becoming bolder and bolder. Study the advertising pages of some of the magazines which your children read avidly and also the erstwhile innocuous rotogravure sections of your Sunday newspaper. You will find a large proportion of the advertisements devoted to women's needs and particularly to undergarments. Note the vocabulary used—the insidious suggestions of a pagan attitude toward the human body. Can the virtue of modesty flourish in such soil? The advertising of cosmetics and cigarettes is likewise a subversive influence. The young girl is made to feel that her main purpose in life is to make herself attractive, "full of allure," "kissable." Will your young daughter acquiesce if you tell her that she is not to make herself into a common "kissable" object? We used to call such women "painted ladies" and regard them with horror. Has the moral law then changed?

The curse of this age is exhibitionism. Do you exploit your children by training them to love the spotlight, to regard themselves as "young stars," or "stars of tomorrow"? Do you enrol them in tap-dancing classes and spend hours wearily sewing ruffles and sequins onto ridiculous garments that they may enjoy a brief moment of glory and pay for it by a lifetime of frustration, trying to find an audience for a talent that never existed? Do you let your child sing or recite on the "amateur children's hours" which are just now a plague upon the land, or even worse permit your little daughter to give a frighteningly faithful imitation of Mae West or one of her ilk and deliberately condone it—perhaps even laugh at it yourself?

If this is a problem which has not touched your household, just in the service of humanity listen to one of these programs the next time you get a chance. Listen to the babies from two to three years of age up to fourteen singing, "I'm in the Mood for Love." Remember that to the average modern child, love does not mean devotion, self-sacrifice, restraint. It means one thing—"petting." Note how the radio programs reinforce the advertising. No child may be blamed for supposing that such activities and emotions constitute the most important part of life. Note that very, very rarely, nowadays, do you ever hear a child, except in school, sing a child's song. And this in spite of the fact that in school they are still taught the beautiful, simple songs. The radio often destroys the child's voice as well as his moral sense. While we are on the subject of music, just pick up some of those colored folders bearing the choruses of popular songs, and observe the pagan note running through them: "Let Yourself Go," "It's the Natural Thing to Do." Remember that the words are associated with tuneful and popular airs and that these choruses are almost the only verse that your child has memorized voluntarily.

While you are buying a few of these song sheets at your corner news store, pause just a moment and take note of the stock. Look at the covers of those lurid magazines through the eyes of your little pre-adolescent child. Try to imagine the effect upon your older boy or girl. Examine the contents, and then you will know one of the reasons for the wave of sex crimes. Do not shrug your shoulders and refuse to believe. Most of the unfortunate victims of such abnormal cravings

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say that they got their ideas from books. What are we afraid of? Why don't we get rid of this filth?

At Christmas time and on birthdays you buy beautiful books for your children. You give them bookcases of their own and book plates to engender a love of books and a sense of personal pride in them. Beginning with the first Mother Goose book, you have built your library solidly on the classics and the best of the current output. Is your duty then done? By no means. That is only a small proportion of your child's reading. There is often a startling difference between the literature found in the high school student's home library and in his locker at school.

Perhaps you know that your children do not read very well. Do you know why? One reason is that current fad—the pictorial magazine. Your children and even you yourself are returning to the habits of your primitive, picture-reading ancestors. We are a lazy generation, and it is easier to read pictures than print, easier to get news from the radio than to read it. Do you know what happens to a muscle that is not used? It becomes atrophied. So with mental skills. We learn to read by reading. We lose the power by not reading. The implication is unmistakable. Some of the pictorials, notably the more expensive ones, either ostensibly created for fostering a love of art or frankly for the sophisticated, are definitely vicious. No parent should have such things in the house. It should not be necessary to say that if parents read only magazines, their children are not likely to be book-lovers. It is obvious that if you permit yourself to read questionable novels and magazines, your child will not prefer the good and beautiful. The home sets all the patterns; the influence of the teacher and the librarian not only comes much later, but is not nearly so effective, especially when it is diametrically opposed to the example in the home.

Not all of the lunch money that you give to your high-school children goes for food. They buy magazines of the *True Story* and *True Confessions* type and pass them around until they are worn out. They read the movie magazines constantly and spend much time in day-dreaming of glamor and "allure." Most of them follow the comic strips with sedulous devotion, reading and rereading the pictures and losing more and more the power to read anything more difficult than the simplest vocabulary. Spelling and grammar, moreover, are adversely influenced. You have only to examine a week-end crop of "funnies" to see why. Personal conduct is keyed to the lowest standards.

Another dangerous reading type is the crime or detective story. We have actually developed a national disregard for the criminal aspects of murder, in our abnormal interest in its mechanics. We have begun to regard murder as a species of entertainment. Clever comedians have made drunkenness funny. We laugh at a dunken man and forget the tragedy of his condition. We are movie-trained to regard speed as entertaining and an utterly criminal disregard for the rights and persons of others as evidence of cleverness. Seventh and eighth grade pupils list as their favorite reading the "funnies," "crimal" stories (the adjective is their own invention to meet a need), "modernistic love stories," *True Confessions, True Romances,* and movie magazines. In spite of occasional optimistic reports, based upon questionnaires submitted to children, to the effect that young people are still reading the classics, the fact remains that while there are of course some book-lovers even in this generation, a very large number of children read only those classics required by the school, or those actually read to or with them by parents.

What will you do about it? This. Let individual parents, parent-teacher groups, teachers' associations, sodalities, women's clubs and fraternal organizations write to the firms that use offensive advertising, to the magazines that carry such advertisements, to the radio stations that carry programs dangerous to children. Let them use pressure upon local police to clean up the plague spots among the news-stands. Let them protest movies prejudicial to the welfare of children, and conversely, let them not forget to praise publicly every step in the right direction taken by individual merchants, managers, police or others. An aroused public can work wonders.

Most important of all, unite in neighborhood, school or church groups and agree upon norms of conduct for your children—hours for parties, matters of dress, use of the family car. Then stick to them so that the child cannot counter with, "Why can't I? Betty can!" Then go to the book stores and the libraries and choose beautiful books for your children. Read to them and with them. Discuss the news of the day; read the Bible and the good old stories that have lifted men's minds to higher things for generations. Sit down at the piano and play the fine old songs while your children sing them.

Sacrifice your own sophisticated tastes upon the altar of your children's welfare. Make good literature attractive to them, and with faith and prayer and patience you may save this generation from the poison of paganism.

Claim Satisfied

Now speak no more of gifts which I may claim—
Were all your wealth no valued more than dust,
Something new born in me would leap, would flame,
Would sing . . . for you have given me your trust.

JOHN GILLAND BRUNINI.

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NAZI AGAINST THE CHURCH

By WALDEMAR GURIAN

EARLY in October a well-known English Catholic, observing with greatest sympathy the destiny of German Catholicism, said to me, "God be praised, the situation of the Church in the Third Reich is becoming better."

As proof he pointed out that the Fuehrer, Hitler, had asked the Church-hater, Goebbels, to be more moderate; thus Hitler denied the anti-Christian propaganda of Goebbels. This information, he claimed, was obtained from a reliable source.

The English Catholic referred also to a conversation with a German diplomat who formerly participated in the preparation of the Concordat with the Reich. This man, who is still in a prominent position, regretted the difficulties developed between Church and State, and was of the opinion that they consisted only in a misunderstanding over a suitable interpretation of the Concordat, for instance, of its article dealing with the "confessional" schools.

A few days later, on October 10, 1937, a significant letter of the Bishop of Berlin, Count Von Preysing, was read from the pulpits in his diocese. Of course, such a statement could not be printed in Hitler's state. It deplores the removal of the priests from the schools, ordered by the Nazi authorities. These authorities assert that, although they carried out this measure, they harbored no antipathy toward the Church. They declare that laymen teachers, with special pedagogical preparation, could teach religion better than the priests, who have no such preparation. We read in the very impressive letter of the Bishop:

> The offensive against the Church is being carried through, step by step, but none the less, systematically, in order that its purpose—de-Christianization of our life—may not be recognized too soon. . . . Under the slogan, "de-confessionalized public life," efforts have gone on for years to check Church influence on the lives of the people. . . . Manifold attempts are being made to instil an un-Christian and anti-Church spirit in teachers. In the speeches and writings of the men responsible for the nation's spiritual and intellectual life, one can see what they think and teach about the Bible and how they slander Catholic life.

One of the main characteristics of this offensive against the Church and Christian belief is that it should not be accompanied by continuous clamor. Periods of open struggle and sensational incidents are followed by periods of calm. (Details of this offensive may be found in my book, "Hitler and the Christians," or in George N. Shuster's "Like a Mighty Army." For a description of recent events one may refer to the article published in the September issue of the *Month,* written by E. Wolfe, a pseudonym of an American, who is well connected with the German hierarchy.)

The purpose of such a pause is not only to deceive foreign spectators, such as our English friend, but also the Germans themselves. Sudden, uncontrollable rumors rise concerning the impending peace between Church and State in the Third Reich. This procedure was also employed toward German bishops to deceive them, who like to use all means to avoid the conflict between State and Church. Such a conflict is, in any case, dangerous for individuals and for society.

The organ of the Catholic clergy in Switzerland, *Die Schweizerische Kirchen-Zeitung,* edited by the prelate Von Ernst, describes in the issue of September 16, 1937, this Nazi procedure, which seeks to produce false hopes by deception. The author of the article—I believe, a German prelate—establishes the fact that the hopes of the hierarchy to obtain peaceful relations with the dominant Nazi party were strengthened

> . . . by confidential reports, which, as the bishop thought, came from the Nazi camp. . . . At least, it is striking that the dove of peace began to fly immediately before the Bishops' Conferences of Fulda (the annual reunion of the entire German hierarchy). For instance, a high representative of the Berlin government came to Fulda in order to assure the bishops that everything would be agreeable to them.

These optimistic accounts and pledges were only means of deception, but it is very conceivable that the German bishops had long hoped that the situation would be improved. Even more impressive is their clear and energetic voice of accusation today—a voice which was heard immediately after the publication of the papal encyclical, "Mit brennender Sorge," the very powerful summary of the dangers menacing the believers in the Third Reich.

Nazi procedures make a comprehension of the trend of German religious events very difficult. For National Socialism does not use methods of open fighting and suppression against the Church, as they were used in the Soviet Union, Mexico and Spain. Hitler is too skilful a psychologist to use the more human, but still open, brutal methods of Bismarck's *Kulturkampf.* Bismarck put bishops in jail because they did not accept unjust laws against the Church. Hitler prefers indirect methods. In 1933, when it seemed as though peace would be realized between the Third

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Reich and the Church, albeit after many difficulties, Hitler declared in an intimate circle, as reported by a high Nazi representative, that he would not repeat Bismarck's mistake. He would not struggle against the Church in direct campaign. He would obtain its submission by a systematic propaganda of defamation against its leadership and clergy, using the most flagrant events of Church and papal history.

The Nazi state, as a matter of fact, did use this method in its propaganda. It does not claim to be against the Church or its beliefs. The open proclamation of hate against the doctrines of Christian religion is reserved for the small, neo-pagan groups, such as the followers of Ludendorff. The blatant activity of these neo-paganists is used by the Nazis as a means of menacing the Church authorities. Yet, today, the Nazis give free rein to their anti-Christian feelings. Now it is not as necessary to use masks as it was in an earlier period. But today, also, the Nazis generally like to assert that they are fighting only against the "political pretensions," the "greed for money," and the "immorality" of the clergy.

The "currency trials" of 1935 had the purpose of demonstrating the alleged "capitalistic sentiments" of the clergy and the religious orders, who used, as the Nazi propaganda asserted, every method of dishonest speculation. I think that everyone knows the aim of the "morality trials" of the German religious. These trials began in 1936 and were continued, with interruptions, in 1937, accompanied by shameless monopolistic propaganda. Solitary cases were generalized outrageously in order to create the impression that the whole leadership of the Church was permeated with immorality!

The perfidy of this propaganda is increased by the assertion of the Nazis that they have rescued the Church from Bolshevistic dangers and they continue to oppose all enemies of Christianity. The Nazis have suppressed Freemasonry and all Marxian organizations of godlessness. Hitler expresses, touchingly, his condolences upon the death of any bishop. The Church has thus no right to accuse the policy of the Nazi régime of being anti-Christian.

Under the cloak of this propaganda Christendom is driven out of public life step by step. The Catholic political press has long been suppressed. The religious periodicals lead a precarious existence. Their advertising space is limited by ordinance; they have permission to publish only articles of strict religious theme. At the moment a secret campaign is being waged against Catholic publishers. The famous theological encyclopedia by Herder is continued with great difficulty. Printing-houses which, by order of the bishops, dared to publish the papal encyclical on Germany, were closed or confiscated. This unwarranted seizure of property occurred so casually that the German public was unaware of it. The uninformed Catholic buyer, seeking to purchase publications from a Catholic printing-house in Munich, does not know that this concern is now property of the Nazi state, simply because it dared to print the papal encyclical. Such expropriations occur despite the guarantee given to publication of encyclicals and episcopal letters by the Reich's Concordat. The Nazi officials justify their measures in a very simple manner. They assert that the Pope and bishops do not publish religious, but political, documents, while the Concordat protects only the former.

Whereas public opinion labors under delusions produced by monopolistic propaganda, the influence of Christendom is systematically weakened. As the Bishop of Berlin proclaimed: first, there began a campaign against schools conducted by the religious, next against the "confessional" schools, finally against priests as instructors in the schools. Catholic organizations are excluded from public life. For instance, Catholic Youth groups are not allowed to compete in sporting events, to wear insignia, or to possess uniforms. The aim is to kill such organizations by degrees, but they must disappear without publicity.

But the fact which is of greatest importance is the Nazi attempt to revise the thought and feeling of the people. This educational campaign is accomplished by misuse of sacred words and concepts; and this the Pope has pointed out in his encyclical. As an example, the Nazis use the word "God," but they do not mean the true God of the Bible and the Church. Their "God" is a symbol of racial myth. This conceptual masquerade is perhaps the most dangerous of Nazi methods, for, unnoticed by the victims, this develops a lack of Christian knowledge. It is the great hope of Nazism that gradually youth will forget Christian tradition. Youth, educated under such a system, will remember Christian terms, but in the Nazi sense. Not till this day arrives will the religious unity of the German people be realized in the Nazi sense. A new "national religion" will perfect the work of political unification realized by Adolf Hitler. This religion will retain some semblance of the Christian past, but the race and the perpetuation of the people will be proclaimed openly as being the whole aim of life.

The end of Nazi religious policy is not political. It is led by the belief that Christianity, in its traditional form, is not able to be a solid foundation of political unity. However, the people ought to be gradually educated for this new concept of religion. Christian feelings ought to be absorbed by the new movement—the deification of people and race. A direct campaign against Christendom would be detrimental to this aim. It would produce much resistance. A campaign

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of systematic education is judged by the Nazis as being more efficacious, than is the direct suppression of the Church.

It is the opinion of the Nazis that fanatical adherents to Christianity will, in time, disappear, just as did the ancient pagans. It is not necessary to enliven Christendom by making public martyrs by a bloody persecution. It is a part of these tactics, too, to bewilder the Christian ranks by interruptions of the Nazi's Christian campaign, by rumors of impending peace between Church and State. By this method, the Nazis will prevent Christians from understanding their real aim.

But these Nazi tactics have encountered an unexpected resistance. The Nazi plan, by which they sought to unite all Protestants in a Racial National Church, could not be attained. It is to the great merit of serious Protestant believers, represented today by the famous pastor, Niemoller, that they have prevented the successful building of this, only apparent, Christian church. By this they have also helped the German Catholics. Probably the Racial Protestant National Church would demand of Catholics, either that they should become members of a national religion, being good Germans, or, being traitors of their people, they should remain members of the international Papal Church.

But Catholics, themselves, could not be deceived by the Nazi tactics. The Nazi could destroy the influence of Catholicity in public life, but he could not conquer the religious feelings of the Catholic masses. The papal encyclical was of tremendous importance because it opened the eyes of many people who had not yet recognized the real aim of Nazi policy. Today, the religious fervor of Catholics is increased by Nazi propaganda against the influence of the Church and by the Nazi measures of driving the Church from public life.

Despite this, it would be erroneous to assume an optimistic point of view concerning the situation. It is evident that the enormous power of the totalitarian state can influence, step by step, the whole environment, especially that in which youth dwells. The conflict between the Church and Hitler's régime is not a tactical or transitory one. It is a perpetual religious conflict which at times smolders, and at other times blazes forth.

Nazism is a new religion which consists in the apotheosis of the people; and this people is, of course, identified with Hitler's movement. Against this deification of political power, the Church defends, not only eternal, supernatural principles, but also the dignity of men and their inalienable rights.

LITERARY NOTES ON LORD ACTON

By FRANK E. LALLY

IT WAS once, and in some quarters is yet, the habit of critics to view Lord Acton only in the shadow of a great promise unfulfilled—his "History of Freedom"—where his own characterization of Sir James Mackintosh becomes a mirror reflecting his very self as

> . . . the representative man of promise; the man who never did anything first-rate; who was valued not for what he had done, but for what he was considered capable of doing, but who, ever promising, never actually fulfilled the expectation of those who knew him.

The old condemnatory view of Acton is no longer tenable in any degree. Since 1904, it has been impossible to look upon him as a kind of bookish Selvaggio, who "In hunting all his days away he wore"; and, since 1917, seven cogent reasons have existed for a new view of Acton. They are seven books of his writings; and, in order of publication, their titles are: "Letters to Mary Gladstone" (1904); "Lord Acton and His Circle" (his *Rambler* correspondence); "Lectures on Modern History" (1906); "Lectures on the French Revolution"; "The History of Freedom" (essays); "Historical Essays and Studies" (1908-1911); and "Correspondence of Lord Acton" (general correspondence; 1917). It is not a large number of books, yet no one acquainted with them will gainsay Algernon Cecil's remark, that they constitute a mass of literature "great enough to exhibit a mind of extraordinary range and power."

The value set on books individually by judges whose opinions carry weight, some of them great weight, is extremely high. The "Letters to Mary Gladstone" has been ranked with Selden's, and with Coleridge's "Table Talk," and considered to have a human interest beyond them. Another judgment on the "Letters" is, that "it enlarges the reader beyond the confines of the present, and yet without losing any of the emotions of contemporaries he feels himself judging with posterity." This verdict, which can be applied as well to all seven books, is particularly appropriate to the "Lectures" and the "Essays." So great is the wealth of these in thought and judgment, that a writer whose literary faults do not include extravagance guaranteed "to find at the very least one pregnant, pithy, luminous, suggestive saying in any three of their pages." A like promise might well be made respecting the "Correspond-

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ence," and the *Rambler* letters, and also writings that yet lie buried in forgotten periodicals. When those writings, which will make at least two more books, are reclaimed, although we shall not even then have a full-length portrait of Acton, we shall be in a still better position to understand why John Morley pronounced him "the very type of modern historical learning in its maturest development and, in a far deeper sense than Hallam, the magistrate of history."

Yet notwithstanding any service those writings may render today, both they and those already collected were once regarded a serious obstruction to Acton's high purpose. He was solemnly warned against periodical writing, and he confessed that it was inconsistent with the kind of studies he pursued. But that he exposed himself to its special dangers is explained by his estimate of his literary powers. Everything he wrote, he said, was utterly worthless unless rewritten two or three times; and in the element of rapidity he placed his powers at low-water mark. "Slow and pacific of thought," he was "not only incapable of, but naturally averse to, rapid and spider-like production." He imagined that periodical writing would help him to overcome the aversion. A five years' experiment not only proved it to be unshakable, but robbed him of some of the best years of his life for production of a more lasting, if pedestrian, kind.

But not too much is to be made of the obstruction of periodical writing. Macaulay and Fiske each suffered from it, and each surmounted the barrier; and in Acton's case it was removed, much against his wishes, in 1861. The path to the goal of his dreams thus lay open to him, but he was, by his standards, not yet half ready to begin his great work; and considering the sad end of that project it is regrettable that he did not continue for five more years his periodical writing, which he resumed for a time in 1867. There is cause for regret too in his neglect to comply with Macmillan's proposal, in 1892, to publish a volume of his magazine writings, which he properly called his essays. They were to be selected and revised by him; and that the revision was to stress the chiefest interest of his life is seen in his "hope to say something of Butler's ('Analogy') importance where one seldom finds him, in political science." Fortunately, he has left a faint outline of that unfulfilled hope:

> Kant is the macrocosm of Butler ("Analogy" and "Sermons"). From him he got his theory of conscience, which has so much influenced political as well as religious thought. His most famous saying, on the teaching of conscience within us, and the firmament above, is taken straight from Butler. I do not despair of convincing German friends that what Butler compressed into a crowded and obscure volume is substantially expanded into the minute and subtle philosophy of his successor. Kant stands on the shoulders of the "Analogy" when he elevates the probability into a substitute for proof, and on those of the "Sermons" when he makes the infallible conscience the basis of certainty and the source of the Categorical Imperative.

That projected revision, too, might have included essays which he wanted to write long before on Julius II and Leo X "explaining the connection between the absolutist tendencies of the Church and the establishment of the Roman monarchy, which is very important and not understood." Perhaps, also, he would have found room in it for an essay on Newman (died 1890), whose life he had been asked to epitomize for the "Dictionary of National Biography."

Without agreeing that Acton's style, "like so much else in his life and work is just *manquée*, has character but not finish," one must admit its many blemishes. It is sometimes lumbering and cumbrous. In places the sentence-load is too heavy for the writer to move at ease. It is in some cases tiring by its long strings of quotation, and in this connection too its text is sometimes polyglot. At times it is perplexing. In certain passages it is not easy to determine whether Acton utters his own or another's opinion. And in some places it is very difficult by reason of its allusiveness. These constitute the sum of the major faults, and with the exception of some lesser things, which can be neglected, nothing else can be alleged.

The faults thus listed refer especially to particular essays. In the writings as a whole there is little ground for complaint—especially on the essentials of clearness and mobility. On the other essentials like dignity, force, conciseness, there is no ground for complaint. Their excellence in these respects has already received due recognition by the inclusion of "The Heralds of the Revolution" (Chapter I, "Lectures on the French Revolution") in two recent anthologies of modern essays; and the book from which that essay is selected might well be offered as a whole volume of models.

Acton's writings however are not to be placed among the models of style, but rather among the models of historical thinking (cf. Walter Lippmann and Alan Nevins, "A Modern Reader," D. C. Heath and Company, 1936). Their language and construction is that of a writer who thought about something else than words and syntax. Thoughts and judgment alone are attended to, and are themselves rightly left to find their own words and phrases—often amazing things. Record, who was notorious for his use of the superlative, appears "most" frugal in comparison with Acton. Innocent III, for example, is "the most powerful and prosperous of all the successors of Saint Peter"; Aeneas Sylvius and Cusanus are "the two greatest churchmen of the fifteenth cen-

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tury"; Sixtus V, the Council of Ten, and Richelieu are "the most consummate masters of the difficult art of reigning"; Charles V is, "on the whole, the most significant figure" and Ribadeneyra is "the most tiresome historian" of the sixteenth century; Charles's better-remembered contemporary, Ariosto, "spent, in flattering an obscene court, the most prodigal imagination ever possessed by man"; the history of the Index, which begins in that catastrophic age, is "one of the most curious things in the history of literature and the Church of Rome," "among whose innumerable accusers, Sarpi is the best informed, the most artful, and the most feared"; Father Paul is, in addition, "the most consummate tactician in modern polemics," and "not only the most powerful writer of his age, but the truest exponent of his native commonwealth," "which became in his time and before his eyes the most systematically immoral tyranny in Christendom." As for the Reformers, Chateillon is "the first defender of freedom of conscience in the period of the Reformation," and "the man whom Calvin hated the most of his contemporaries," and "the first Protestant who revived the early teachings of the Catholic Church on the evil of enforced conformity."

Men and things too of the less turbulent seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries—Frenchmen, Germans, Swiss, Britons, Americans—likewise share Acton's bag of superlatives. As for Frenchmen, Bossuet "is the greatest of the prelates of the French church"; Colbert is "the greatest administrator France ever had"; Montesquieu is "the foremost among the eighteenth-century school of writers"; Portalis is "the most statesmanlike of French jurists"; Tocqueville is "not only the ablest Frenchman of his generation, but the most thoughtful, the most moderate, the most high-minded of men in an age prodigiously rich in talent"; and Hugo is "the most eloquent of Frenchmen."

The tributes in the superlative both to Germans and Swiss refer more properly to scholarship than statecraft:

> The German intellect can boast of no greater achievement than the creation of the critical and reconstructive methods, of which the school of Baur represents the highest development. It is, in all other departments of learning, the greatest instrument of the discoveries by which they [Germans] have attained their supremacy in literature.

He says also: "the best history of ancient philosophy is a German product" (Zeller's); and "the best history of Rome is Schwegler's, another conspicuous member of the school of Baur"; "the most famous biography of a medieval Pope was written by Hurter of Schaffhausen"; and "Kopp's 'Geschichte der eidgenössischen Bünde' is the best work that any nation possesses on the origin of its political independence."

The portion (representative) of Britons is good, but by no means the lion's share: Raleigh's "History of the World" "is perhaps in design the greatest ever conceived by a historian"; the long-forgotten Dr. Ferguson is "one of the profoundest English historians"; Mackintosh is "the ablest antagonist of Burke"; Macaulay is "one of the clearest, most consistent, and most accomplished thinkers"; May's "Constitutional History" is "the most valuable guide in English literature to the system and spirit of the English government"; "Knight's History" is "the most useful history of England"; and: "One of the most curious and characteristic facts in English history is that the second Lord Liverpool should have so long remained Premier."

The portion of Americans is almost as great, and like that of Frenchmen refers principally to statesmen, and political writers: Gouverneur Morris is "the most conservative man" and Franklin "the only very foolish man" at the Convention of 1787; Hamilton is "the foremost of American statesmen"; Legaré is "the most accomplished scholar among American statesmen"; Ticknor is "the most accomplished scholar in the United States," which "was always, till the Civil War, a most powerful restraint on the augmentation of the power of England."

These judgments (for the most part from uncollected writings) of a man to whom every word was sacred, have been well called "the supreme reward of an exhaustive induction." Doubtless each one of them will be disagreed with by someone. But it is very doubtful if a single person will feel qualified to question a quarter of them. The point of their citation is not to indicate Acton's scope. It is rather to indicate the intrepid originality of a writer whose ideas, as he himself said of Scherer's, "have a freshness and sincerity that disregards the idols of a multitude of worships."

Acton's freshness and sincerity is felt as well in judgments qualified in the positive degree, which is often found where the superlative is rather expected. In the following judgment on Tiberius the highest degree of an adjective seems quite in order. Even Pliny the Elder calls him *tristissimus hominum*. But Acton, concluding a scorching criticism of a "Life," merely says:

> All we say, and what Tacitus, in effect, maintains, is that the career of Tiberius exhibits the spectacle of a continuous and terrible declension.

There is fine wit too as well as freshness in his pen, wit that in his earlier writings runs into nice ridicule. The following examples are from his short reviews, where it most frequently occurs. Observing in his review of Schwegler's "History of Philosophy" that the Scottish philosophy of common sense was left unnoticed he surmised that this had happened "because it was not a philosophy, but the protest of respectable people against

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the attempt of philosophers to disturb their ordinary notions." The estimate of Napoleon in Goldwin Smith's "English History," he found "scarcely different from that which makes the early numbers of the *Quarterly Review* such comic reading." In his notice of Hergenröther's "Photius," which begins with a wearying and irrelevant introduction, he says:

> He has commenced his introduction with the state of Byzantium in the time of Cicero. What has this to do with Photius and the Greek schism? It reminds one of the medieval chronicles which always commenced with the creation of the world. Having introduced us to the fifty-eight bishops of the metropolis of the East, from Metrophanes to Methodius, and shown us that amongst these not less than twenty-one were heretics or promoters of heresy, the author at length comes to Photius, whom even then he seizes before he hast left the womb.

The same sparkling ridicule flows from his pen in his notice of Cantù's "History of Italian Literature." Pointing out its numerous errors he says:

> There is good reason to suspect that the existence of the great Scaliger is unknown to the author. He quotes the language of Scaliger's most eminent contemporaries, Thuanus and Lipsius, concerning him, and imagines that it applied to that vainglorious pedant, his father. The strangest blunder is in the account of Strada, the historian of Alexander Farnese. It begins accurately enough, but unreason prevails by degrees. His book is written in Latin. It is criticized for its Italian style. He wrote it on the revolt of the Netherlands. Signor Cantù affirms that it describes the civil wars in France; that he took part in them; and that he defends Catherine de Medici. Strada was a devout Jesuit. Here he is called a bad Catholic, and a waiter in the antechambers of the great. We can only explain the confusion in one way. After writing a couple of sentences the author must have forgotten that his theme was Strada, and must have supposed that he was writing of Davila, whose name, if we remember rightly, nowhere occurs in the book. The dates exhibit a singular persistence in error. It is said that Montecuccoli, whose exploits belong to a later age, gained an advantage over Gustavus Adolphus. Bellarmine is made to live to be 99, Fontanini, 120, and Bernardo Tasso, 123. . . .

In his early writings Acton more than once adverted to the question of style, and the principles of writing he then enunciated received splendid illustration throughout his works. He said:

> The chief object of a scholar in writing lies in the new matter he can bring to light, in the novelty of his facts or his conclusions. Books written with this object meet the first condition of literature, which is not form but substance, not style but talent.

He rejected root and branch the dictum that style alone constitutes a work of literature. Even though a work was badly conceived, even though it had no style "like half the chronicles, most of the philosophy, and nearly all the theology of the Middle Ages," so long as it had ideas it had value, and was well within the pale of literature.

This stress on the practical side of literature was the natural result of his most intimate acquaintance with the science which always gives either new values to, or begets new views of, things. As a historian it was impossible for him not to be more interested in the practical than the esthetical; and the following gives his reasons:

> The chief sources of historical knowledge are in few cases contained in works which have great literary fame. Our knowledge of modern history is derived from a very different style of histories from those which record the Peloponnesian or the Punic wars. There is a vast portion of writings which have no value in the estimation of literary historians and is therefore generally forgotten; but which is of utmost value to history. Those books which have most influenced men, the polemical writings of divines, and the political speculations of philosophers and statesmen, rarely possess that sort of merit which secures renown. But to the historian they are more important than the works of great genius. He is more interested in the "New Atlantis" than in the "Advancement of Learning," and in the "Areopagitica" than in "Paradise Lost."

It is this interest in writings that deal wholly with ideas that explains the abundant presence of ideas in his own works. Emphasis however on his indifference to style does not mean that he had little of it. It has been rightly said that his writing has a note as distinctive as Macaulay's. It lacks indeed the rapid and energetic narrative of that Tintoretto of historians. It has not a single patch of purple. But in conciseness, dignity and force it rivals everything Macaulay did, and it displays an erudition and a knowledge of history that are unrivaled—and to this praise must be added the greater praise of rigid accuracy and high ethical purpose.

Perspective

Mysterious and militant, the stars
Begin their slow processional, or so
It seems to us who watch below their course,
And call them points of light, and scarcely know
Them each a vaster world than this; their dark
May well conceal an earth as green as ours,
Where lovers walk the paths of every park,
Under the lattice-loops of evening flowers,
And, looking at the night, speak each to each:
"This star, that star, how glorious it is!"
And Sirius seems close enough to reach,
And every moment too intense to miss.
Yet from the planet of that other sun
Earth is not seen or sensed by anyone.

AUDREY WURDEMANN.

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OVER THE HILL TO SECURITY

By LAWRENCE LUCEY

"THE HOPE behind this statute," wrote the Supreme Court when it upheld the pension plan of the Social Security Act, "is to save men and women from the rigors of the poorhouse as well as from the haunting fear that such a lot awaits them when journey's end is near." Men and women now can look forward to a journey over the hill to social security not to the poorhouse.

Without a doubt the most important law enacted by this administration is the Social Security Act. Eventually this law will cost about $4,000,000,000 annually. Judged by its money value this law is the most important act ever passed by any Congress.

In 1929, it cost about $3,500,000,000 to pay all the expenses of running the federal government. Of course since 1929 the budget expenditures have increased tremendously because of relief and other measures. But the cost of social security when all its taxes will be in full force will top the normal federal budget by $500,000,000. From the viewpoint of cost social security is $500,000,000 more important than the executive, legislative and judicial departments of the United States combined.

There is much more to social security than the paying of pensions to those over sixty-five. Social security by its provisions for maternal welfare will touch the lives of Americans before they are born, will be with them all through their lives, and when they die, by paying a death benefit to the heirs of insured workers, will influence their lives after they have left this vale of tears.

Any law which touches the lives of people before they are born, stays with them all through their life, and then affects them after they die is too big to be discussed adequately in a few pages. Because social security is so colossal it will be necessary to treat only two portions of it in this article. These portions deal with the two types of pensions for those over sixty-five.

During last August 1,419,000 people over sixty-five were paid a monthly pension under the Social Security Act. These people received a monthly pension because they were over sixty-five (some states over seventy) and were needy. This section has nothing whatsoever to do with the pension plan supported by employers and employees for the payment of monthly pensions to workers who become sixty-five after 1942.

Prior to the enactment of the social security law many states had been paying monthly pensions to their aged who were in need. Because some states did not have this type of a law and because most of the states which did pay pensions to their aged kept their monthly benefit very low, it was decided to stimulate this type of relief by a section of the social security law.

This section provides that every state or territory which pays a monthly benefit to its aged who are in need will be reimbursed to the extent of one-half its expense by the federal government, but the maximum federal grant for an individual shall not exceed $15 per month.

The 1,419,000 aged people who received a monthly pension last August resided in forty-seven states, Hawaii, Alaska and the District of Columbia. Close to $26,000,000 was paid to these aged people during this month. This means that the average payment amounted to $18.32 per month.

No one in their right mind will contend that an income of $18.32 per month, or less than $5 per week, makes an aged person socially secure. But this monthly pension is something and it will keep needy people over sixty-five out of the poorhouse. The Townsend plan which asked for $200 per month for the aged was a crackpot scheme that was a financial impossibility. But now that pensions for the needy aged have become a fact an effort should be made to raise them to a decent level.

At present the states which pay their aged less than $30 per month, and every state except California went under this mark last March, are losing a part of the grant which the federal government is willing to send them to make their needy aged socially secure. When the states come to the realization that they are being taxed in such a way by the federal government for these pensions that the only certain method for getting all this tax money back is to pay their aged at least $30 per month they are likely to raise their pension payments to this figure. As the states become more acquainted with the manner in which these pensions are paid for, it is probable that the average monthly pension will be raised to the $30 per month figure.

If a state wishes it can set the maximum monthly pension at any figure it pleases but the most it will receive from the federal government for an individual is $15 per month. If a state pays a $50 per month pension to an individual it will be reimbursed only to the extent of $15 and must pay $35 out of its treasury. Naturally this will tend to make the maximum pension in the states stay close to the $30 per month figure.

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With the average pension for last August amounting to $18.32 it now costs over $300,000,000 per year to make these monthly payments to the aged. At this rate each person in the nation is taxed about $2.50 for the payment of these pensions. When the one remaining state without an old age pension law falls into line and the needy aged in the other states who have not as yet taken advantage of this pension make application for this aid, the number of those on the pension list probably will be doubled. At the present rate of the pensions it is likely to cost each resident of the nation about $5 per year to support these people over sixty-five.

To raise these pensions to an average of $36.64 per month each resident must pay a yearly tax of $10. To provide a weekly income of about $9 to those over sixty-five who are in need everyone in the nation must pay a weekly tax of $.20. I believe that if people realized what an immense amount of happiness their $.20 per week will bring to the aged who are no longer able to support themselves and what a great tragedy can be avoided, they would be willing to make this sacrifice.

And for the hard-hearted there is this fact which they must face: Few people are certain that when they become sixty-five they will be able to support themselves. In 1930, only six out of every ten over sixty-five were able to support themselves. If the hard-hearted want to be certain of a small income when they are sixty-five they had better not oppose measures intended to raise the monthly pension to a decent figure. If they do fight attempts to raise the monthly pension rate then they are liable to realize how foolish they have been when they become old and penniless.

The pensions for the needy aged which amounted to an average of $18.32 per month last August were charitable benefits paid by the combined treasuries of the state and federal governments. But there is nothing of a charitable nature about the pensions that will be paid to workers over sixty-five starting in 1942. This old age pension system is in no way related to the pension system for the needy aged.

No matter how rich or poor an applicant for a pension may be, he is entitled as a matter of right to a monthly pension when he becomes sixty-five if he has worked for some part of five different years, earned at least a total of $2,000 during these five years, and worked for a concern which is included in the pension plan. This pension plan is not administered by the state governments in conjunction with the federal government as is the other pension system; it is administered solely by the federal government.

Only about half the employees in the United States, Hawaii and Alaska are included in this pension plan. About 26,000,000 employees now are paying 1 percent of their wages into this pension fund while their employers, about 3,000,000 of them, are also paying a tax of 1 percent on their payrolls. These taxes are to be raised every third year until 1949 when they will amount to 6 percent of the salary of a worker, 3 percent being paid by the employee and 3 percent by his employer.

How much will these pensions amount to? They will vary between a minimum of $10 per month and a maximum of $85. But anyone who has his eye on the jackpot pension of $85 per month had better take it away from it, for something like one person in a million will receive this monthly payment.

To obtain this top pension of $85 per month one must work for at least forty-three years before reaching sixty-five and during each of these years one must earn at least $3,000. Of course those who hold down two or three jobs included in the pension plan at the same time won't have to work forty-three years to get the jackpot pension, but as most people have a difficult task in doing the work of one job at a time these exceptional cases can be overlooked.

Now to work for forty-three years before becoming sixty-five one must start work on his twenty-first birthday. He then must work continually without any lay-offs until his sixty-fifth birthday. And during each year he must earn at least $3,000. If he earns $4,000 during one of these years and $2,000 in another he will not receive the jackpot pension.

Do you know anyone now twenty-one years of age who earns $3,000 per year? Most of my acquaintances of that age consider themselves doing real well if they are paid $1,000 per year. The exceptional young man of that age may make as much as $2,000 per year. But a $3,000 per year man at the age of twenty-one is a rare fellow indeed. And when such a phenomenon is found he is not a certain jackpot pensioner. The odds against his continuing at the $3,000 or better rate for forty-three years are very high. For practical purposes it will be well to forget about the top pension of $85 per month.

In 1942, the first pensioner will receive his first check from the Social Security Board. Probably the first check will amount to $25 unless the rates are changed between now and 1942. I say that the first check will amount to $25 because that is the top pension that will be paid then unless someone who has held down two or three jobs simultaneously between 1937 and 1942 can be found. Realizing that the spotlight will be on the first pensioner and the amount of his first check, the Social Security Board probably will put its best foot forward and pick the top pension check as the first one.

The only ones who will be paid a pension of $25 per month in 1942 are those who have earned

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at least $3,000 in each year between 1937 and 1942, become sixty-five at the latter date, and then retire from work. The average man who has earned about $1,500 per year during each of these five years will receive a monthly check for $18.75. And the man who has struggled along at $1,000 per year will receive a monthly check for $16.67.

To receive these monthly pensions at sixty-five one must retire from his regular employment. How many men earning $250 per month will be eager to give up their jobs to receive a monthly pension of $25? How many men earning $125 per month will quit their jobs for an $18.75 social security check? How many earning $83.34 per month will think twice about retiring when they become sixty-five in order to get a check for $16.67 each month?

Naturally the first pension checks had to be small for those who will receive them only will contribute to the pension fund for five years. But take the man earning $25 per week who works for twenty-five years and then retires. He will receive a monthly pension of $37.50.

It might be said that this man should put aside a private nest-egg for his old age and when this is added to the social security check he would be well fixed. Did you ever try saving money when you earned $25 per week, particularly when you had a family to support out of this wage? People earning $25 per week cannot do much saving and most of them will have to rely on their social security check as their only source of income in their old age. I do not think that a pension of $37.50 is enough to support a man accustomed to earning $100 per month. He needs at least $50 per month or one-half his former wage.

The most sensible way to raise the pensions is to put the pension plan on a pay-as-you-go basis instead of requiring a full reserve for this fund. Most all the social security experts, including those employed by the Social Security Board, agree that the present full reserve requirement should be done away with and the pay-as-you-go principle substituted.

To meet the pension payments starting in 1942 all the fund needs is an amount sufficient to pay these monthly pensions plus a reserve for emergency purposes of $1,000,000,000 or $2,000,000,000. At present over half the money collected in taxes goes into the reserve fund while less than half of it is to be used to pay the pensions as they become due.

By 1980, there will be between $47,000,000,000 and $50,000,000,000 in the reserve fund. By placing the pension plan on a pay-as-you-go basis and eliminating this gigantic $47,000,000,000 or $50,000,000,000 reserve fund the pensions can be raised considerably without increasing the tax rate and without endangering the pensions of those who will not become sixty-five until fifty, one hundred or a thousand years from now.

Senator Vandenberg has called this gigantic reserve "the $47,000,000,000 blight." In saying this the senator from Michigan, who voted for the Social Security Act when it was before the Senate, said a mouthful—a profoundly truthful mouthful.

By whittling the present reserve requirements down to $1,000,000,000 or $2,000,000,000 from the $47,000,000,000 or $50,000,000,000 figure the general economic life of the nation will be improved. When $47,000,000,000 or $50,000,000,000 is withdrawn from the credit in circulation it will slow up business activity. Prosperity cannot be coaxed back when there is a $47,000,000,000 or $50,000,000,000 millstone tied about the neck of the economic system.

Then with only $1,000,000,000 or $2,000,000,000 in the reserve account the statesmen, better known as politicians, will not be tempted as much to dip their fingers into this fund in order to pay for some foolish scheme that they have not the nerve to charge to the order of the taxpayer directly. When $47,000,000,000 or $50,000,000,000 is permitted to rest undisturbed in Washington you can be certain that some politician will find a method for putting these loose dollars to work.

Finally all the money in the reserve account is to be invested in government bonds. With a reserve of $47,000,000,000 or $50,000,000,000 invested in government bonds the national budget would never be balanced. This reserve fund would be an open invitation to keep the federal debt at $47,000,000,000 or $50,000,000,000.

Considered from every angle the pension plan should be placed on a pay-as-you-go basis. By doing this the pensions can be raised to a decent figure, the millstone of a gigantic reserve will be loosened from the economic structure, the politicians will not be tempted to dip their fingers into the reserve fund, and no barrier will be placed in the path of those interested in balancing the national budget.

Child and Goldfish

Orange the sun, upon the side
Of goldfish groom and goldfish bride
Brusquely united in the new
Aquarium that's three by two,
And gold, upon the head of that
Small giant watchful as a cat
Who bends above them till his face
Reflects in every shaking trace
The sun-told flicker of a fin.
The ripples touch his throat, and in
The pupil of each tawny eye
An orange fish goes glancing by.

JOSEPHINE JACOBSEN.

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A LAYMAN'S LAMENT

By ANTHONY TRABOULSEE

THE TALKING phase is past, and operative Catholic Action is overdue. The laity is teetering, if not tottering, spiritually. They will not be won over to the side of the angels by fulminations against Communism alone.

The most effective strategy against Communism is to ignore it. This, I presume, is what Father McGowan means by indirect action. But to ignore it is not to stay idle. A counter-offensive is urgent against the conditions and institutions which begat both Communism and capitalism. Once institutions for dispensing social justice are set up, we shall have buried both Communism and capitalism in the same coffin. A juridical social order must prevail. This is a work of organizing, of working together, not the scattered activity and dissipated energy which characterize our present efforts.

To urge the Catholic laity to sanctify themselves, to study the liturgy, and to become more holy is not enough. The liturgical appeal is too exotic, and does not attract earthy, starving human beings. Liturgy is an orchid which will choke to death among the rank weeds of the new paganism. In short, as Jerome Davis has emphasized, "either the Church must rebuild the economic order in harmony with the kingdom of good-will or the economic order will continue to force the Church into harmony with the kingdom of profits" ("Capitalism and the Church").

The emphasis in Catholic Action should be laid on organization. It should be a mass movement, like the Crusades, a sort of Legion of Decency on many fronts. This is harder than owning a missal, or going to Communion more frequently, or preaching against Communism. What good are these personalist actions if those who offend against social justice do not participate in them? Institutions must be changed: this is the work of education and self-education, publicity, legislation, and, yes, lobbying. All this requires intensive and extensive organization in order to reorganize society according to the mind of the encyclicals and the Gospel, to restore the Kingdom of God upon earth. It calls for planning. It calls for corporate and cooperative activity, for institutional changes, for a juridical re-formation of society.

How can Catholic Action be made active, be motorized? The Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference is the natural vehicle for the motorization of Catholic Action. Is it asking too much of each diocese that it have a director of Catholic Action, with activities centralized in Washington? Furthermore, the problem must be scaled to the stature of the ordinary layman. Lay interest cannot be stimulated by generalizations: to the layman's intuitive ear, these sound insincere. They confuse him and fail to orientate him. We must jump the nearest and lowest hurdle first.

The form which Catholic Action has taken in this diocese (Antigonish, Nova Scotia) is the well-known Extension Movement, sponsored by the University of St. Francis Xavier, whose chancellor is the ordinary of the diocese. The program is that of adult education, self-education—with a bias for the cooperative movement. Studying before venturing is insisted upon, but it is equally stressed that studying alone is not Catholic Action. As a result of this well-balanced program and philosophy, the eastern counties of this province are reticulated into credit unions, cooperative stores, consumers' clubs, the members being coal miners, steel workers, farmers, fishermen, white collar workers, housewives and even children.

This Extension Movement has definitely arrested the progress of Communism in these parts, for it has filled a void once preempted by the Communists. Not a few prominent Catholics had gone over to the Communist camp, and a great many more were about to follow, when this movement providentially came and saved these people to the Church.

Catholics in the United States and Canada have heretofore held aloof from common activities. We have been imitators rather than cooperators. This spirit of aloofness is damaging, and is reciprocated in suspicion and ill-will. The poor man has been told that the Catholic Church is his Church. Surely the Church cannot abandon him to the forces of greed.

Communications

THE LEPER'S FRIEND

New York, N. Y.

TO the Editor: Perhaps, like us, you noticed the unusual attitude of the public when the body of Father Damien was in transport from Honolulu to Belgium. Is there anything so dreary as the sight of a corpse at train shed or dock, awaiting shipment? It impels instinctive silence in the chance onlooker, and it may be a chill at the thought that his own remains may be so handled amidst the rushing crowds that makes him turn aside or hurry past. Even for death it is so very lonely.

But the passage of Damien's body proved a contrast. Although, as we here learned, his kindred lepers at Kalawao resented the removal of their courageous Father, once the coffin was started on its way, at every point its passage was attended with a curious admiration that at times was restrained from imminent outbursts of enthusiasm only by the Christian reverence for death. The papers of our country, from coast to coast, blazed with the news; and as you know, when the body arrived in Belgium, even holy enthusiasm broke all bounds. Poor Damien. During life he could not spare a glance for the world, so enraptured was he in his suffering charges; but in death, the world's eyes, in an instant, turned on him. At last the Catholic leper story was told and how memorably.

I mention the incident now only because it substantiates our life-long conviction that the victim of leprosy enjoys a peculiar sympathy with the public. We are depending upon Damien's popularity to reflect handsomely this year in the Annual Christmas Leper Fund of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. This custom of ours dates back even beyond Damien's time; for whereas it took the transoceanic shipment of his holy remains to awake a pub-

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lic conscience for the leper, our international Society, sensing human needs in all parts of the world, is the leper's bosom friend of long standing. As usual, we ask your good service to acquaint your readers of our Christmas Leper Appeal.

It surprised us that the American crack reporter at the time of Damien's transportation did not hit upon his account of his first experience in Hawaii. Does this not show that not all the best stories burn over the newspapers' private wires? This one leaked in to us through the ordinary route of mail.

Sixty-four years ago, in the uncertain dawn of a breaking day, Damien, a stranger just landed, walked quietly on the lonely island in the Atlantic. He followed a toe path, which wound its way among unsightly shanties, pausing at each to detect any sign of habitation within. He was about to take a turn in the path that led toward the sea, when somewhere behind him there was a noise that he took to be the shoving aside of the boards which covered the openings in the shanties during the night. The sun's first rays being now well up, Damien saw a man emerge and for some moments he looked uncertainly up and down. The man was old and gaunt, and when finally he walked behind his shanty, he moved like one who is crippled or in great pain. Shortly he returned, pushing before him in some uncertain fashion that Damien could not understand, a wheel-barrow, and he let it fall before the doorway as though he could not bring it another inch. With much belaboring which was increased by his very awkward movements, the man pulled a bag from the shack and after countless agonizing bendings and pushings and raisings, he set it squarely upon the barrow. Seeing what trouble the poor man had with the conveyance when it was empty, Damien hurried to proffer his service to wheel the burden away. Just as he came up, he saw a human arm through the opening in the bag, which was but feebly put together. "We are lepers here," said the old man, as he peered into Damien's startled face; and then signing to the bulk before him, he continued, "My partner here died in the night, and I am burying him before the others are about." As Damien wheeled the barrow away, he noticed that the speaker had no hands.

Your readers should know that at last there is hope for the leper. Our good Sisters at Mokokai, Fiji, reported nine complete recoveries in 1936 and for the same year three such cures were reported from our Catholic Hospital at Utale, British East Africa. Will we ever see the day when leprosy will be wiped from the face of the earth, as it was removed from Europe some seven hundred years ago? If so, besides segregation and the up-to-date medical treatment, God will know how much will have been done by the ever effective solvent of Christian charity.

Whatever tokens of such charity that may be garnered by notice of our Annual Christmas Leper Appeal in your excellent publication will be welcomed at the National Office, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 109 East 38th Street, New York City.

Rev. Thomas J. McDonnell, *National Director, Society for the Propagation of the Faith.*

THE TABLOIDS

New York, N. Y.

TO the Editor: It seems to me that your correspondent of November 5, Mr. J. R. Sage, undertook to attack the most progressive journalism in America when he denounced your comments favorable to the new Milwaukee *Catholic Herald-Citizen* and tabloids. Citizens in several of our largest cities are well able to compare the "yellowness" of tabloids and of the ordinary run of newspapers, and I doubt if many of them could bring findings against the tabloids. Perhaps their reporters are more ingenious in getting the interviews and photographs which the whole press runs after, but that can hardly be held to their discredit. The ordinary papers are—in some instances—perhaps more selective in their choice of crimes to play up, but when they take one up they put the tabloids in the background. The epics which even the *Times* has woven around the Hall-Mills case and such wholesome affairs as the Gedeon case and Lindbergh kidnaping are not easily forgotten. The tabloids do not disguise the moronic under a pompous and demoralizing "sociological" blather in the revolting manner assumed by many of our other dailies.

Sensationalism and crime and sex are not monopolies of the tabloids. On the other hand, they are unique in cutting down reports to the dimensions they deserve and presenting them in a comprehensible manner. They do not expand on the stock market and the sports world until their readers get a lopsided view of affairs. They interest and are interested in the common man, and their editorial pages are frequently remarkable for their fairness and clarity. They rarely pussyfoot, but I trust that is not what Mr. Sage deplores.

Barry Wells.

WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS

Covington, Ky.

TO the Editor: In perusing my favorite magazine this week, I notice a mistake in printing.

The "William Dean Howells" article, by Daniel Rankin, in the issue of October 22, mentions "a slender book of poems, written with his friend, John J. Platt." The name should be John J. Piatt. I thought you might welcome the correction—John James Piatt was a cousin of mine.

Your splendid magazine is the treat of my life. I read it from cover to cover and wish for more.

Martha Piatt Lockwood.

THE PROTESTANT LETTER

Louisville, Ky.

TO the Editor: Referring again to the recent letter signed by 150 persons, many or most of them clergymen, condemning the Spanish bishops for their upholding Franco, and especially the deduction of these 150 signers that it is an evidence of the anti-democracy of Catholicism, how do they explain Ireland and Portugal and Andorra and the little Italian democracy of San Marino?

Anastasia M. Lawler.

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Seven Days' Survey

The Church.—At the pontifical field Mass celebrated at Tucson, Ariz., commemorating the 150th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of the United States, Archbishop Cantwell of Los Angeles declared that "the crying need of our day is for social justice." Archbishop Cantwell suggested that the Constitution should be adjusted to our changing needs, but that "its spirit, its respect for the rights of the states and its reverence for the dignity and the sacredness of man" should be maintained. * * * Pope Pius XI inaugurated the new Lateran Atheneum in the presence of twenty-six members of the College of Cardinals and hundreds of other dignitaries. * * * At the dedication of the statue of Christ the King on King Island, between Siberia and Alaska, by Reverend Bernard R. Hubbard, S. J., the "Glacier Priest," it was so cold that the holy water froze as it was sprinkled on the bronze figure. Snow fell throughout the ceremonies, which were attended by all the able-bodied inhabitants of the island, all of them Catholic Eskimos. * * * The Joint Pastoral Letter issued by the bishops and archbishops attending the Fourth Plenary Council of the Church in Australia, outlined the progress of the past thirty years and touched upon unemployment, child endowment, the *Catholic Worker* of Melbourne, the Catholic library movement, and the dangers of urbanization. * * * A study outline, "the Spirit of the Constitution," prepared by the National Catholic Welfare Conference, was sent to Catholic schools in the nation for American education week, November 7-13. * * * A week after the consecration of the Cathedral of Reims, Soissons, the most severely damaged of all the French cathedrals, now restored, was dedicated by Cardinal Suhard of Reims. Precious thirteenth-century glass, removed from the choir and apse window at the time of the first bombardment, is still intact.

The Nation.—Preparations were being strenuously made for the assembling of Congress in special session on November 15. Senator Byrnes told the President he expected the House would be able to act on farm bills before the Senate. The latter would first consider executive reorganization. The bill ready for presentation disregards the two measures passed last session by the House. It would work from the Cabinet down, changing the Department of Interior into the Department of Conservation, and creating a new Cabinet post for the proposed Department of Public Welfare. The Accounting Office would be put under the Budget Bureau, but post-auditing would remain under an auditor general engaged by Congress. President Roosevelt indicated he wants farm and wages and hours laws taken up as soon as possible. * * * Agitation for tax reform continued unabated. Perhaps wishfully thinking, business spokesmen indicated that they believe the capital gains tax and undistributed profits tax would both be reduced somewhat but not abandoned. * * * For the first time since 1933 there has been a more active demand for gold in London than in New York and the United States has lost gold through the withdrawal of "hot money." Gold went from the Treasury's sterilized fund and brought no reaction on the domestic credit structure. * * * Secretary Perkins asserted that discrimination on account of age "has become a menace and terror to thousands of family breadwinners." She said an analysis made by WPA showed that the average age of those found to be "excellent" skilled workers was 47½ years, and that the poorest workers averaged definitely younger.

The Wide World.—Germany and Poland exchanged mutual pledges regarding the respective minorities. Both governments guaranteed complete cultural and religious autonomy and both promised to abandon any effort toward forcible assimilation. The Reich hopes to draw Poland into the anti-Communist pact. * * * According to Czechoslovak officials, the political and diplomatic pressure now being exerted by Germany is merely a renewal in a new guise of the old pan-German *Drang Nach Osten* from Berlin to Bagdad. Czechoslovakia is arming to the limit of its capacity and is determined to preserve its integrity at whatever sacrifice. * * * The Soviet government served notice on Italy that it regarded the anti-Communist pact signed by Italy, Germany and Japan as an unfriendly action. * * * Foreign Secretary Eden, defending the decision to send British agents to Nationalist Spain for the protection of British trading interests there, asserted that there had been no modification in the fundamental attitude of England toward France. * * * Nationalist forces in Spain rushed preparations for a major drive against Catalonia. General Franco decreed a relaxation of restrictions on the import and export of declared securities, permitting dealings with Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Portugal, Argentina and Switzerland.

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The Nation's Business.—Latest figures indicate a business decline of undetermined severity and duration. Dollar volume of retail sales is fairly constant; but higher prices have reduced consumption, despite increased earnings and better farm conditions. There is no pump-priming comparable to the $1,500,000,000 poured out for the bonus last year, relief expenditures have dropped $500,000,000, and $300,000,000 to $400,000,000 in wages has been salted away for social security. The first of a series of preparatory White House conferences to analyze business, unemployment and relief "from all points of view" met for four hours, November 8. Conferring with the President were Harry Hopkins, the WPA administrator; Leon Henderson, WPA economist; Isidor Lubin, commissioner of labor statistics, and Lauchlin Currie, assistant director of research and statistics for the Federal Reserve Board. The recession was blamed on the failure of private construction to take up the slack in government spending.

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Available data indicated the virtual impossibility of organizing a program of private construction on a national scale. New industrial production—in the fields of railways and utilities—seemed the only feasible solution. This raised the question whether there should be another sacrifice of reform to recovery, for utility executives claim that their normal proclivity for expansion has been hamstrung by the administration's attitude toward public utilities. Sentiment against drastic curtailment of government expenditures in a period of rising prices was also expressed, and the first group of the President's conferees seemed to agree that the choice lay between renewed increases in federal expenditures and a government program which would sufficiently stimulate the nation's building industry.

Fall of Shanghai.—After seventy-nine days of heavy fighting the Chinese troops, seriously menaced by Japanese flanking movements, withdrew westward from the city. Shanghai, once the leading commercial center of the Orient, is now dotted with ruins, its trade with the interior cut off, its Chinese banking offices removed to other cities. The Chinese have abandoned the Hungjao Airdrome where an incident started the local hostilities, August 13. Since then more than 400,000 persons have been killed and wounded, 300,000 of them Chinese soldiers and 6,000 non-combatants. After firing a large Japanese-owned textile works and other buildings on the western border of the International Settlement, the defenders withdrew in good order, despite heavy aerial and artillery bombardment. In the North the Japanese claimed to have taken Taiyuan, the Shansi capital. No defenders survived. The *Oriental Economist,* a Tokyo monthly edited by Japanese and written in English, says: "Japan today faces the most critical situation since the empire's foundation." Her war expenditures of the past four months have already exceeded by 50 percent the entire sum spent by Japan in the Russo-Japanese War. Special taxes have raised so little that 94 percent of the "North China Incident" expenses must be met by the issuing of bonds. "Japan's productive power at the present time is being employed to the maximum extent" and the author feels that "the nation's labor must be stretched to twelve hours a day, to fourteen hours and even to fifteen hours." Tax revenue must be all but doubled. This may explain Japan's willingness to accept a truce. China's financial status is unknown but she seems disposed to favor a war of attrition in which the momentary advantage gained by the efficient Japanese war machine would be offset by China's greater staying power. Chiang Kai-shek refuses to recognize the Japanese conquests to date as a basis for negotiations.

Mexican Progress.—President Cardenas has issued a decree that all teachers of civics, Mexican geography, history and literature must be taken from lists which show them to be qualified as to "competency" and "ideology." This is to facilitate the realization of the Constitution provision that "education shall be socialistic and in addition to excluding all religious doctrine, shall combat fanaticism and prejudices. . . ." An intensified three-year Pro-Popular program was announced by the Ministry of Education. Objectives include: the liquidation of illiteracy, technical and cultural improvement of teachers, better community hygiene and better living conditions for workers, increased school attendance, organization of young revolutionary groups, national cooperation in the Six-Year Plan, greater professional zeal, and a culturally richer life for all strata of society. The United States Department of Commerce has been notified that after January 1 the Mexican government will enforce its ten-year-old regulations which prohibit the use of anything but the metric system. When prices are quoted, numerals must be used for such terms as "dozen," "gross," etc.; "pair" is the only exception. The State Department at Washington has requested information on the report that 250,000 acres in oil lands of a Mexican subsidiary of the Standard Oil Company of California has been nationalized. In this first decree to nationalize oil lands already leased were also included 350,000 acres owned directly by Standard Oil of California and 500,000 acres owned by a French-financed company. The set-up of the Standard Oil subsidiary in question is similar to that of most of the British and American oil concessions and this decree may virtually mean the end of this foreign enterprise.

Social Security.—It is expected now that during the next regular session of Congress the social security laws will undergo revision. The Social Security Advisory Council, an unofficial group which grew out of the Senate Finance Committee's hearings held last spring, met in Washington to discuss the problem, and arranged to assemble again December 11, at which time it will probably make recommendations for legislative action. One request likely is that workers be permitted to remain on the tax rolls after reaching sixty-five years of age and thus to increase the benefits they would receive after retirement. Another is that the coverage of the system be widened to include 13,000,000 additional workers, including farm and domestic labor. The most vociferous debate is over the reserve fund. The present plan is to accumulate enough to cover all benefit obligations, eventually about $47,000,000,000. Before the end of the fiscal year the first billion will be on hand. At present, the Secretary of the Treasury invests these funds in government securities, which, during a period of unbalanced budget, constitutes the financing of deficits, and which, if a long period of balanced budget ensued, would mean the transference of the whole national debt to the security insurance account. It might mean a deliberate adding to the debt in order to provide securities for the account. One proposal is that a reserve fund of something like $10,000,000,000 be set up, and thereafter current benefits be met by current tax income. Philip Murray, labor member of the Advisory Council, wants to use the money in the reserve for immediate productive expenditure on a huge building program, "which would be a positive cure for the evils of unemployment, which are aggravated today due to the present business decline. . . . A comprehensive low-cost housing and general building program is essential to the welfare of the nation."

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Latin America. — The United States government sought a pacific solution of strife between Haiti and the Dominican Republic which is estimated to have cost more than 1,000 lives. Haitians, responding to the pressure of population, have been filtering into the Dominican Republic over an ill-defined border for years, establishing homes and farms on the Dominican side. Other thousands of Haitians migrated into the Dominican Republic and obtained jobs at wages far lower than Dominicans themselves customarily received. These conditions were held responsible for a wave of anti-Haiti feeling throughout the Dominican Republic. Ascuncion, the capital of Paraguay, was put under martial law and a warning was published that anyone attempting to create disorder of any kind would be shot without trial. An attempt is again being made to restore the Chaco War hero, Colonel Rafael Franco, to the Presidency. The government reported that an unimportant mutiny had been suppressed at Conception. The army is about equally divided between the two factions.

Agriculture.—The House Subcommittee on Agriculture, assisted by the Senate committee, was busy holding hearings in Washington trying to revise last summer's farm bill for resubmission to Congress during the extra session. The central debate was over the advisability of using voluntary or compulsory methods of crop control. Farm organization experts were divided, a majority of the congressmen favored voluntary, and the Department of Agriculture supported compulsory, methods. Department officials recommended that necessary funds be obtained from new processing taxes, reworked and called "tariff compensation taxes." Secretary Wallace told the House Subcommittee that cotton planting must be reduced next year between 8,000,000 and 12,000,000 acres, which would mean a sacrifice by producers of between $200,000,000 and $300,000,000. A few days later crop experts reported the largest cotton crop in United States history, 18,243,000 bales of 500 pounds each. This crop came not from an enlarged acreage, but from the highest yield per acre in our history, 258.8 pounds. The AAA announced its intention of paying farmers $1,500,000 this fall and winter to feed potatoes to livestock in order to prevent waste and depression prices in the face of an unusually large crop. About $.15 per bushel will be paid on about 10,000,000 bushels. Money will come from the $100,000,000 custom collection fund already set up for various "compensating" purposes. Meanwhile Washington economists predicted that farm income in 1938 will fall below the figure for this year. Higher wages and rising prices for materials were held responsible. The reduction may be balanced by increased government payments.

Labor.—Negotiations between the A. F. of L. and the C.I.O. were resumed on November 4, and soon the chances for a reunion of labor seemed brighter than anyone had anticipated. Three elements were seen to be forcing the reconciliation: the rank and file have clearly indicated they want peace; President Roosevelt put the administration more clearly on record as desiring a settlement; the economic recession brought very objective pressure for united action. Discussions concerning the industries for which vertical organization is appropriate were being carried on in a realistic spirt. The power of the executve board of the A. F. of L., especially to suspend unions, was being thrashed out. The degree of identity and autonomy possible for the C.I.O., assuming reunion, was discussed in a less recalcitrant mood. A subcommittee was formed to deal with specific detail disputes. * * * Labor was active in the courts. In Brooklyn, six employees of the B. M. T. subway went to court to block a closed shop agreement the company had arranged with the Transport Workers Union by which all workers in certain classifications would have to belong to the union by November 10 or face discharge. The Supreme Court was apparently avoiding a decision on the legality of a sit-down strike. At the same time it gave indications it would uphold two important Labor Board rulings. * * * The sea situation improved. Ten days after signing an agreement covering North Atlantic ports, the International Longshoremen's Union entered into another with the coastwise shipping lines covering South Atlantic ports. Pay increases of $.08 to $.12 an hour were stipulated. The National Maritime Union signed an agreement with the Black Diamond Steamship Company, providing better working conditions and a 12 percent wage increase. This was the first settlement resulting from an N.L.R.B. election which showed a majority of the unlicensed personnel supporting the C.I.O. organization.

Power in Books.—The second annual National Book Fair, arranged by the New York *Times* and 110 publishers, was opened November 4 in New York City. The president of the *Times* stressed the necessity for a free press for books as well as newspapers. Mayor La Guardia said, "I think the tendency to lightness may progress so far that we will have fictional history or historical fiction, which will make it useless as history and a guide in these times." The main address was delivered by Secretary Wallace, who spoke of the powerful books of history, "which have given direction to the western human spirit throughout the ages." After the Bible, he called to mind the "City of God," "The Imitation of Christ," the "Summa" of Thomas Aquinas, and Francis Bacon and Copernicus. He spoke of "the books of the sixteenth century which endeavored to break the old molds" such as "The Praise of Folly" and "Don Quixote." Milton and Calvin and Bunyan, Rousseau, Thomas Paine and Voltaire were taken up, and, after Adam Smith, Ricardo, John Stuart Mill and Hegel, "Das Kapital." "Whether we like is or not, everyone in the world today is different because of 'Das Kapital.'" American books mentioned were "The Book of Mormon," "Science and Health," Turner's "The Frontier in American History," Veblen, and Ferrero, who wrote "Ancient Rome and Modern America." "The stage is now being set for some of the most powerful books which the world has yet seen. Humanity everywhere is hungry both for a new freedom and a new discipline. The books which played their part in producing modern capitalism, Fascism and Communism

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do not have in them sufficient food for the human soul. . . . More and more humanity is feeling disappointment in the destructive and unbalanced effects of analytical science and laissez-faire economics. More and more humanity senses the need for coordination of our vast detailed knowledge in application to the economic, physical and spiritual life of the individual and the nation."

Non-Catholic Religious Activities.—The New York Congregational Association, in convention at the Linton Avenue Community Church, Brooklyn, refused to go on record as supporting controversial resolutions without sufficient time to debate. The subject-matter was: the Italian and German support of General Franco; a report denouncing Japan for "acts of aggression" in China; and a resolution on the child labor legislation "to protect children engaged in interstate commerce." While making it clear that they would not take any action they stated that "no political misgivings should prevent us from helping to relieve the tragic human need which now exists in Spain." * * * "To Fascism and Communism, the Jew says, 'A plague on both your houses,'" Rabbi Leonard J. Rothstein declares in an article in the current *American Jewish Times*. Classifying both Communism and Fascism as autocracies, which show the utmost contempt for democracy, Rabbi Rothstein cites two reasons why the Jew must necessarily be opposed to Communism: "Because in Russia, that cradled it, he was completely deprived of his livelihood since under Communism there is not room for the middleman, the rôle that he has been compelled to play through the centuries . . . because for the Jew human personality is the most precious thing in the world, whereas for Communism it is a cog in a vast wheel, a marionette having the same relationship to the government as Charlie McCarthy to Mr. Bergen." * * * An international pulpit exchange, which has been carried on for ten years in the interest of international friendship between the United States and Canada, will be continued this year, beginning on November 21, according to an announcement by the World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches. The World Alliance has arranged an exchange of ministers along the borderline of Canada and the United States, from the Atlantic to the Pacific: St. Paul and Minneapolis with Winnipeg; Chicago and Buffalo with Toronto; New York with Montreal.

Learned Professions.—A survey of unemployment in the learned professions, the first attempt to deal in a comprehensive way and on an international scale with this subject, has just been concluded by Dr. Walter M. Kotsching, who urges the establishment of a committee by each country as a permanent governing body to act as a super-advisory board to coordinate all information relating to the extent of employment in each occupation and profession. As a permanent body it could give a running commentary on the labor market and warn parents and students whenever a profession threatens to become overcrowded. Vocational guidance and orientation, in order to reach the maximum usefulness, Dr. Kotsching believes, must attempt not only to achieve better distribution of professional workers throughout the learned professions, must not only deter people from starting professional careers, but must point the way to those types of work, manual or otherwise, which society needs and for which it is prepared to pay.

Auto Traffic.—The prediction that all American cities are going to be confronted within the next year or so with a very critical situation of practical stagnation of traffic movement on the more important arteries of travel was made by Miller McClintock, director of the Harvard University Bureau of Traffic Research, at the opening of a seminar on safety in New York. There are already 40,000,000 automobile drivers and 28,000,000 automobiles in the United States. More than 125,000 persons will be permanently disabled, he asserted, and almost 1,500,000 more will suffer lesser injuries in traffic accidents this year. He urged newspaper men to stimulate the public to seek the solution of "the twin problem of traffic accidents and traffic congestion which go to the very basis of our social and economic life."

Army Maneuvers.—During the past eight months the army has been conducting tests of the proposed new mechanized infantry division which may result in the complete reorganization of the service. Last week, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 10,000 men participated in a "motorized march" from San Antonio to Fort Worth and return. More than 1,000 motor vehicles of all kinds were used. The test division moved faster and farther than any equal number of men in the history of the American Army and was the largest force to be moved and controlled under one command in this country since the war. The division advanced over parallel roads. The western column covered 60 miles, the center column 72 miles and the eastern column 105 miles on the first day. All columns operated under radioed orders from the division commander, Major General James K. Parsons, and were "strafed" with machine gun fire and bombs from 18 army attack planes.

Speed.—On November 6 at Bonneville Salt Flats, Utah, Captain George E. T. Eyston, English speed king, tried to break Sir Malcolm Campbell's record of 301.1292 miles per hour made at the same place in 1935. Captain Eyston traveled (unofficially) the fastest man has ever gone in an automobile, 310.665 miles an hour, but failed at the mark because of mechanical trouble in his clutch. On his trip east, Eyston hit 310.685 miles per hour through the measured kilometer. His recorded time over the measured mile was 303.2955. The "electric eye" timing device stuck at the end of the mile, official timers said, adding that the actual speed through the mile was about 310 miles per hour, faster even than his 309.6 made October 28, but unrecognized because, as was the case on that day, he hit trouble on the required return trip. "Apparently our repair work on the left clutch was not thorough enough," Eyston said. "This time we'll radically change it. . . . If I don't break the record this year, I'll come back and have a try at it again possibly next year."

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The Play and Screen

I'd Rather Be Right

IN THE Kaufman-Hart-Hart-Rodgers musical, George M. Cohan makes President Roosevelt good-hearted but slightly muddleheaded in his efforts to balance the budget so that two young lovers may marry. There are also satiric hits at the Cabinet, the Supreme Court, the Federal Theatre Project, WPA workers who hate to work, and New Deal taxation. But despite the employment of real names it is so amiably done that only the most sensitive souls, or those columnists who feel that the New Deal is sacrosanct, will object. "I'd Rather Be Right" is a sort of glorified Gridiron Show with the general public invited to attend. And make no mistake—it is attending! It is not the wittiest of the Kaufman-Hart musicals, and the score is not the equal of that of Mr. Rodgers's two previous shows, "On Your Toes" and "Babes in Arms," but it none the less makes an enjoyable evening. Probably the very thing that has won it its stupendous publicity—the introduction of characters under their real names—is what has hobbled the librettists. Had Mr. Kaufman and the two Messrs. Hart employed fictional figures they would have had a freer scope for their satire—but in that case the indictment of New Deal shortcomings might have been less amiable. So in the interests of good feeling let us be thankful that Mr. Roosevelt, Mr. Farley and Mrs. Perkins appear with their names on the program. Mr. Cohan gives a magnificent performance as President Roosevelt. In fact he leaves us to wonder what the evening would have been without him. Other admirable impersonations are Paul Park's Jim Farley, Taylor Holmes's Mr. Morgenthau, and Florenz Ames as an angry taxpayer. A new singer who knows how to put over a song is Mary Jane Walsh. All who follow politics—and George M. Cohan—will want to see "I'd Rather Be Right." (At the Alvin Theatre.)

Golden Boy

WHEN the Group Theatre two years ago produced "Awake and Sing," the name of Clifford Odets was hailed as that of the most promising young American playwright, and some felt, though this writer was not of the number, that "Waiting for Lefty" was equally good. Then Mr. Odets wrote "Paradise Lost," and became himself lost in a pretentious farrago. But in "Golden Boy" he returns once more as a dramatist of unusual skill. It is the story of a prizefighter whose family want him to be a musician, and who is himself torn between his desire for gain and his love of art. His avarice wins, his character deteriorates, and at the end he kills himself and the girl he loves. Mr. Odets is essentially a Jewish playwright, he understands his race and he projects its characters in pungent, pointed dialogue. Though Joe Bonaparte, the "Golden Boy," is supposed to be Italian, we never believe it. He and his family are Jewish, and interestingly Jewish. When Mr. Odets attempts to portray native Americans, as he does in the girl, he is far less satisfying. But in his own field he is unique. Moreover, he understands dramatic technique, the value of suspense, of surprise, of silent action. It is time, however, that he learned that vulgarity of expression is not drama. Some of the lines of "Golden Boy" are lamentable.

The Group Theatre under the direction of Harold Clurman has given the Odets play a splendid production. Luther Adler gives a masterly impersonation of the tortured soul of the young fighter. Frances Farmer is appealing and as lifelike as the character of the girl will allow her to be, and Elia Kazan as the gunman gives a truly terrifying performance. Other excellent characterizations are made by Roman Bohnen as the manager, Art Smith as the trainer, Morris Carnovsky as Mr. Bonaparte, Lee J. Cobb as his Jewish philosophical friend, and by Jules Garfield as a taxi-driver. (At the Belasco Theatre.)

GRENVILLE VERNON.

Saint Thérèse—The Little Flower

IMPORTATION from France of a motion picture concerning Saint Thérèse brings the disclosure that one Davide Calcagni, in New York, has tangible plans for collecting all available feature films of a religious flavor which might be acceptable to Catholics, and concentrating their distribution through the Calcagni Integrity Film Corporation, for exhibition in Catholic auditoriums in this country. For the upbuilding of such a "clearing-house" there are already in hand "Mary Magdalene"; "The Life of St. Anthony," from the biography written by a Franciscan monk; a "Passion Play"; "The Life of St. Francis of Assisi"; and, now, "Saint Thérèse." All except the last, from France, were made in or near Rome, by various native producers. They had no official ecclesiastical sponsorship, but all are said to bear ecclesiastical approbation of authorities in the Vatican.

It will be noted that the source of such motion pictures has through the years almost invariably been in Europe, where the motion picture, technically and otherwise, admittedly lags far behind the motion picture of this country. Numerous independent efforts, outside the commercial-film influences of Hollywood, have been made to produce religious features in this country, to no avail. It is to be regretted that we must continue to depend on the Continent for our religious motion pictures, not excepting the two most notable instances, "Golgotha" and "Cloistered."

The new film of Saint Thérèse is not her life story, despite the impressions conveyed by the sponsors, intentionally or otherwise. It is, rather, a simple tale of a strong devotion to the Little Flower held by a modern working girl in the modern business world. There are, however, several touching "flashback" scenes visualizing Sister Thérèse's entrance into the nunnery, the early days spent as a novice, and, finally, her deathbed. These are interspersed during the modern action while the girl who has dedicated herself to the Saint reads to an ailing child from a book on the life of the Little Flower. The faith of the girl is rewarded by favors received through prayer.

The production requires polishing and is considerably overlong, but deletions will be made and better continuity effected. English sub-titles are to be added.

JAMES P. CUNNINGHAM.

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Books

Books for Young America

BOYS and girls everywhere must have been greatly cheered by the announcement that $230,000,000 will be spent on toys this Christmas. Figures are not available regarding the sum to be spent on books. However, judging from the attractive offerings that have come to our notice, the amount should be quite large. In the last-minute rush of Christmas shopping, parents will be delighted to find just the right book for the hard-to-please child, the football fan, the adolescent sophisticate, and the little ones who still like the story hour. We tear ourselves reluctantly from pages depicting the exploits of a monkey hero, a magic coat that travels all over the globe, brave Irish treasure seekers, and a burro that couldn't be moved, to share our more important discoveries.

For the non-reading youngster who starts our day by demanding to be amused, we recommend the many delightful picture books. "Zephir's Holidays," written and illustrated by Jean de Brunhoff, tells how a brave monkey rescued a lovely princess (Random House. $3.00). Frances Eliot's "The Traveling Coat" takes him on a quick trip around the world (Dutton. $1.50), while Ellis Credle's "Pepe and the Parrot" solves a hungry dog's problems (Nelson. $2.00). Berta and Elmer Hader's illustrations provide lively, humorous pictures for Hamilton Williamson's camel story, "Humpy" (Doubleday, Doran. $1.00). Dr. Seuss has a funny story to tell in "And to Think that I Saw It on Mulbery Street" (Vanguard. $1.00). The adventures of "Twin Kids," by Inez Hogan, will delight any small child (Dutton. $1.00). Zhenya Gay and Clare Turlay Newberry give us good stories and arresting pictures of Siamese cats in "Sakimura" (Viking. $1.50) and "Babette" (Harper. $1.50). A true story of a duck is "Chee-Chee's Brother" by Gertrude Robinson, carefully illustrated by Glenna M. Latimer (Dutton. $1.50). Nor must we forget two old favorites in new editions: Clement C. Moore's "The Night before Christmas," with excellent colored illustrations by Reginald Birch of "Little Lord Fauntleroy" fame (Harcourt, Brace. $1.50) and Helen Dean Fish's collection of familiar nursery rhymes, "Four and Twenty Blackbirds," with clever illustrations by Robert Lawson (Stokes. $1.50).

We would also like to call attention to such youthful delights as Catherine Robb's "Do You Like to Open Packages?" (Nelson. $1.00); Lois Maloy's "Polly Prue and Penny" (Lothrop. $1.00); Jane Quigg's "Jean and Jon Are Still Six" (Nelson. $1.50); Constance Heward's "Billety Bob and the Big Brown Bear" (McKay. $1.00); Elvira Garner's "Ezekial" (Holt. $1.50); Dotty Saulsbury and Elaine Saulsbury Hitch's "Mr. Doomer" (Dutton. $1.00); Robert Ross Parker's "The Strange Adventures of Myrtle the Turtle" (Dutton. $1.00); John Cary Jamison's "Red Fox Rhymes" (Dutton. $1.50); Marjorie Knight's "Humphrey the Pig" (Dutton. $1.00); Dorothy and Marguerite Bryan's "Bobby Wanted a Pony" (Dodd, Mead. $1.00); and

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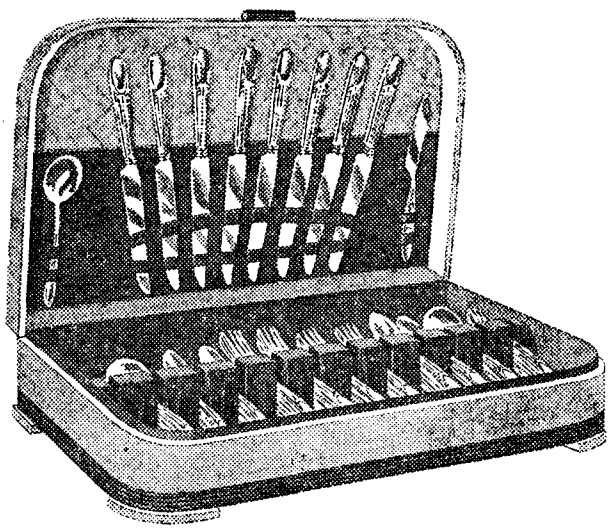

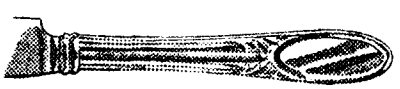

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Rita Kissin's "The Story of Pete the Pelican" (Lippincott. $1.00).

The boys and girls we sent to grammar school this morning should have a school library that includes Elizabeth's Coatsworth's "Alice-All-by-Herself" (Macmillan. $2.00); Constance Heward's "Ameliaranne at the Farm" (McKay. $1.00); Marguerite de Angeli's "Petite Suzanne" (Doubleday, Doran. $2.00); Eliza Orne White's "The Farm beyond the Town" (Houghton Mifflin. $1.75); Helen Fuller Orton's "The Secret of the Rosewood Box" (Stokes. $1.50); Ludwig Bemelman's "The Castle No. 9" (Viking. $2.00); Christine Chester Crowell's "The Little House" (Harcourt, Brace. $2.00); Christine Nobel Govan's "The House with the Echo" (Houghton Mifflin. $2.00); Carol Ryrie Brink's "Baby Island" (Macmillan. $2.00); and the new edition of Annie Fellows Johnson's "The Little Colonel's House Party" (Page. $1.00).

We heartily recommend the addition of a splendid child's biography, "Sebastian Bach," by Opal Wheeler and Sybil Deucher (Dutton. $2.00); a hilarious tale of animal land, "The Doings of Dinkie," by Selskar M. Gunn (Appleton-Century. $1.50); "True Stories of Circus Life," as told by Bob Barton, a real circus clown, to G. Ernest Thomas (Dutton. $2.00); and the story of the obstinate burro in a flood, "High Water," by Phil Stong, with appropriate pictures by Kurt Wiese (Dodd, Mead. $2.00).

Children of this age are tremendously interested in the every-day activities of their contemporaries in foreign lands. A wealth of information and fun, in story and pictures, awaits them in a tale of modern Denmark, "Hans Christian of Elsinore," by Eva M. Kristoffersen (Whitman. $2.00); "Jenik and Marenka," a boy and girl of Czechoslovakia, by Zdena Trinka (Crowell. $1.50); "Beggars of Dreams," a fascinating story of city life in China, by Mary Brewster Hollister (Dodd, Mead. $2.00); "Marcos," a Mexican mountain boy, by Melicent Humason Lee (Whitman. $2.00); "Beppo," a peasant boy of Italy, by Emma Brock (Whitman. $2.00); "Nanka," a little girl of old Bohemia, by Helene Pelzel (Whitman. $2.00); "Ali Lives in Iran," a modern Persian boy who calls himself an Irani, by Caroline Singer and Cyrus LeRoy Baldridge (Holiday House. $1.75); "Riema," a little Javanese girl, by Kathleen Morrow Elliot (Knopf. $2.00); "Red Jungle Boy," the story of a little-known part of South America, by Elizabeth K. Steen (Harcourt, Brace. $2.00); "The Last of the Zuider Zee," a real boy's experiences in modern Holland, by S. Franke (Stackpole. $2.00); "Sean and Sheela," a delightful picture of present-day Ireland, by Marian King (Whitman. $2.00); and "The Treasure of the Mountain," a rousing story against an Irish background where Ford trucks have replaced jaunting-cars, by M. Bodkin (Stackpole. $1.50).

Boys and girls interested in history will find a great deal of interesting information in "Our Little Corinthian Cousin of Long Ago," an exciting account of Timon and his friends in the Golden Age of Greece, by Phyllis Ayer Sowers (Page. $1.00); "Once upon a Time in Egypt," with accurate illustrations based on sculpture found on ancient tombs, by Frances Kent Gere (Longmans, Green. $2.00); "Thord Firetooth," daring exploits of Viking sea-rovers, by Alice Alison Lide and Margaret Alison Johansen (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard. $2.00); "A Spaniel of Old Plymouth," a fine dog story against a background of seventeenth-century England and the early American colony, by Margaret S. Johnson and Helen Lossing Johnson (Harcourt, Brace. $1.75). Mention should also be made here of "Winnebago Boy," with excellent photographs of American Indian life, by Mario and Mabel Scacheri (Harcourt, Brace. $2.00).

Another photograph book which portrays a fascinating part of the work-a-day world is "The Streamline Train Book." The authors are William Clayton and Helen Sloman Pryor (Harcourt, Brace. $1.00). "Helpers," by J. F. Waddell, Lois G. Nemecand and Maybell G. Bush, offers a simple and interesting introduction to social science. A carefully done story of a modern Navajo boy's sheepherding experiences in our own glamorous Southwest is presented in "Nah-Le Kah-De," by Isis L. Harrington (Dutton. $1.50). Another authentic and delightful picture of life in a desert country where sheep raising is almost the only occupation is found in "The Trader's Children," by Laura Adams Armer (Longmans, Green. $2.00).

In the field of animal stories, we cast our votes for "Rhumbo," by L. A. Watkins (Macrae Smith. $2.00); "The Curious Lobster," by Richard W. Hatch (Harcourt, Brace. $2.00); "The Kind Companion," by Dorothy M. Large (Stokes. $1.50); "Punda, the Tiger Horse," by Walter J. Wilwerding (Macmillan. $2.00); "Waif," a wide-awake story of a puppy who went to college, by Eleanor Youmans and Will Rannels (Bobbs, Merrill. $1.50); and the omnibus volume about all kinds of dogs, "Patsy of the Pet Shop," by Mary Constance du Bois (Appleton-Century. $2.00). That ants are like people is well demonstrated in "The Wonder World of Ants," by Wilfrid S. Bronson (Harcourt, Brace. $1.50).

By far the best books for teen-age boys, in our opinion, are the career books. Honorable mention goes at once to "Tin Lizzy," by Adam Allen, who gives reliable instruction on how to put together an automobile from old parts. An intriguing book on model-making and magic making is "Tricks, Toys and Tim," by Kreigh Collins (Appleton-Century. $2.00). The latest book of adventure in the air, and the most authoritative, is "Boys' Book of Flying," by Charles Boff (Dutton. $2.00). How nine famous men—John D. Rockefeller, Abraham Lincoln, John James Audubon and others—began their careers is well told in "How They Started," edited by Elizabeth B. Hamilton (Harcourt, Brace. $2.00). Robert Van Gelder of the New York *Times* gives the inside story of a reporter's life in "Front Page Story" (Dodd, Mead. $2.00). Warren Hastings Miller, in "Tiger Bridge," tells of a difficult engineering job in French Indo-China (Page. $1.75).

Exciting adventure stories for boys of the Junior High age are "Secret of the Circle," by Lide And Johansen (Longmans, Green. $1.75); "King Richard's Square," by Regina Kelly (Crowell. $2.00); "Swift Walker," by Winifred E. Wise (Harcourt, Brace. $2.00); "Down the Ohio with Clark," by Charles Franklin Lender

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(Crowell. $2.00); "Hurrah's Nest," by Richard Summers (Nelson. $1.75); and "The Devil's Highway," by Richard Summers (Nelson. $1.75). In a class all by itself is Richard Halliburton's handsome illustrated "Book of Marvels" (Bobbs, Merrill. $2.50).

In the field of prehistoric history we suggest "Hunters Long Ago," by Gregory Trent (Harcourt, Brace. $2.50); and "Animals on the March," by W. Maxwell Reed and Jannette M. Lucas (Harcourt, Brace. $3.00). "Animal Life in the Wilderness," by Howard L. Hastings (Cupples and Leon. $2.00), treats of animals today.

Two splendid biographies are "Will Rogers," by Harold Keith (Crowell. $2.00); and "My Brother Was Mozart," by Benson Wheeler and Claire Lee Purdy (Holt. $2.00). A unique present would be "A Pictorial Atlas of the British Isles," by H. Alnwick (McKay. $2.00; and "Sailing In," by Alexander Laing. This book contains a stereoscope attachment to view the many illustrations of world ports."

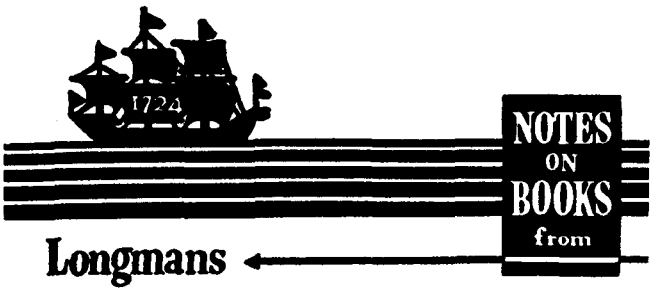
Career books for girls are plentiful this season. Our favorites are "Ballet Shoes," by Noel Streatfield (Random House. $2.00); "Polly Tucker, Merchant," by Sara Pennoyer (Dodd, Mead. $2.00); "Peggy Covers Washington," by Emma Bugbee (Dodd, Mead. $2.00); and "The House by the Road," by Josephine Daskam Bacon (Appleton-Century. $2.00). Some novels which we found particularly interesting are "A Row of Stars," by Jane Abbott (Lippincott. $2.00); "Homespun," by Erick Berry (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard. $2.00); "Prairie Girl," by Lucile F. Fargo (Dodd, Mead. $2.00); "Little Miss Cappo," by Frances Gaither (Macmillan. $2.00); "Bright Island," by Mabel L. Robinson (Random House. $2.00); and "Sealed Orders," by Sidney Corbett (Longmans, Green. $2.00).

In the religious field we express strong preference for "My Saint Patrick," by Alan M. Buck (Lothrop, Lee and Shepard. $2.00); "A Little Shepherd's Trust," by Eva L. Hughes (Oxford. $.75); "Bible Children," by Blanche Jennings Thompson (Dodd, Mead. $1.75); "David," by Elizabeth Orton Jones (Macmillan. $1.75); and the "Canticle of the Three Children in the Fiery Furnace," illustrated by Frances W. Delehanty (Sheed and Ward. $1.50).

Excellent collections of stories are "With Cap and Bells," selected by Mary Gould Davis (Harcourt, Brace. $2.00); "A Treasure Box of Stories for Children," collected by May Lamberton Becker (Little, Brown. $2.50); "Tales of a Chinese Grandmother," by Frances Carpenter (Doubleday, Doran. $2.50); "From Umar's Pack," by Effie Power (Dutton. $1.50); and "Each in His Way," by Alice Gall and Fleming Crew, illustrated by Kurt Wiese (Oxford. $2.00).

Finally, we have reserved place in our miscellaneous section for "Dramatized Ballads," by Janet Tobitt and Alice White (Dutton. $2.00); "The Home Toy Shop," by Nina R. Jordan, a book full of toys which children can make themselves (Harcourt, Brace. $2.00); and "The Play Book," by Jean Carter and Jess Ogden (Harcourt, Brace. $2.00).

JOHN J. O'CONNOR.



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Three Novels

Background in Tennessee, by Evelyn Scott. New York: Robert McBride and Company. $2.75.

The Long Way Home, by Sylvia Chatfield Bates. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. $2.50.

Sun across the Sky, by Eleanor Dark. New York: The Macmillan Company. $2.50.

Miss Scott's book is a combination of autobiography and history; it moves back and forth between her experiences in Tennessee, her birthplace and childhood home, and the past of that state. Sometimes her main intention seems to be the proof of a thesis about the South's history, sometimes the recapturing of a vanished mood. Of course, she might have done both, but, in fact, she has done neither. Perhaps it is her strained style that is at fault, so that one does not see her substance for the verbal curlicues. If no thesis is proved and no mood invoked again very sharply, there are still frequent suggestions of both these things, and in a sort of fitful illumination one may discern shapes of the American past that will attract, if hardly compel, attention for an evening.

Miss Bates also seeks to link past and present. Her heroine is a descendant of a colonial family, the lives of whose members are briefly sketched in prelude to a modern story. The chief interest of this story is documentary. I do not mean that it is fictionized scholarship, but that Miss Bates presents her people much as one imagines they see themselves: this is not an imaginative effort; one recognizes the everyday real behind it rather than in it. Yet there are many readers who will find active pleasure in making this recognition; it will be a confirmation of their own attitudes and responses, and if the average lady who reads the novel has not the need for all the heroine's courage in the face of adversity, this courage is of such a quality that she will have no difficulty in vicariously experiencing it. I mention courage rather than any other of the heroine's virtues because courage is the central point in the philosophy of books of this kind; in almost all stories written by and for women the affiirmation in the end is of the stiff upper lip—a not wholly unadmirable philosophy, though a hard one occasioned by some soft thinking.

A similar conclusion is reached by Miss Dark in her story of an Australian seaside resort, under the aspect of being true to thine own self. Unfortunately, Miss Dark's own characters are good disproofs of her philosophy: the worst of them are just as true to themselves as are the best of them, and the best of them leave one with the uneasy feeling that they have the equipment for posing problems, but never for solving them. Miss Dark, unlike Miss Bates, writes chiefly from inside her characters, thus missing the factual value of the American novel: her titled millionaire, young doctor, absent-minded painter, poetic genius, and neurotic wife have no extension beyond her pages, and on them they are unconvincingly flat. Nevertheless, I think her novel will appeal to the same audience as Miss Bates's, for it represents an estimation of life in the same terms—and is a form of experience which abides by canons that operate in real life.

GEOFFREY STONE.

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Briefer Mention

The Old South, by William E. Dodd. New York: The Macmillan Company. $3.75. In this first of four volumes, our Ambassador to Germany presents an authoritative story of the Old South from the first years of English settlement to the end of the seventeenth century, indicating the motives which moved nearly all Europeans to cross the Atlantic and settle in Virginia, Maryland and the two Carolinas.

One Man Caravan, by Robert Edison Fulton, jr. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company. $3.00 A good road has advantages, but unfortunately it accelerated the author's motorcycle so that part of the world he passed was blurred. The highlights of this book are the extraordinary experiences he had, the many descriptive gems that crowd the pages, and the fine photographs and sketches.

Vocation to the Priesthood, by the Most Reverend William Stookums, D. D.; translated by Reverend Joseph W. Grunder. St. Louis: B. Herder Book Company. $2.00. In view of the widespread misconception of the essential nature and distinguishing signs of the qualifications for man's highest calling, this objective, detailed and restrained presentation of the mind of the Church on vocation, by the Auxiliary Bishop of Cologne, is indispensable for all those concerned with the problem.

Peaceful Change: The Alternative to War, by William T. Stone and Clark M. Eichelberger. New York: Foreign Policy Association. $.25. This clear, if not entirely convincing, summary of the possibilities whereby peace can be preserved almost solely by government action outlines a program of free access to essential raw materials, lower tariffs to stimulate world trade, currency stabilization and effective treaty revising machinery. The authors oppose the transfer of colonies.

West Point Today, by Kendall Banning. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company. $2.50. From plebe to second lieutenant in the army, his comings and goings, that is what these pages relate. To those who scoff at discipline the book is a challenge to their respect for authority after leaving their alma mater. Besides the problems that confront "Mr. Ducrot" during his tour of study, this book has chapters dedicated to "Femmes," precious documents, and reliques of the past, also the many other interesting subjects that symbolize West Point.

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